

Federal Surface Transportation Board
STB's Office of Proceedings
395 East Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

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Office of Proceedings
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Part of
Public Record

Re: Genesee Valley Transportation filing for abandonment
Lowville Beaver River Rail Line (Docket # AB-180)

Mohawk Adirondack & Northern Railroad (Docket # AB 768)

From: Bruce Krug, Lewis County NY taxpayer

Genesee Valley Transportation has filed a document requesting to abandon a total of 37 miles of railroad, extending from Lowville, N.Y. to Carthage, N.Y. Included in the abandonment request is the **Lowville Beaver River Rail Line (Docket # AB-180)** that connects Lowville, NY to Croghan N.Y.

Climate Change has become a central issue at both the New York State level and at the Federal level. Both the federal and state governments have begun initiatives to combat the effects of Climate Change.

The New York Initiative to reduce carbon emissions calls for a 70% reduction in emissions by 2030 and a 100% reduction by 2040.

The federal government, through recent legislation, has stressed rebuilding our infrastructure and investment in new energy sources.

These ambitious goals will require a change from petroleum-based fuels to electric powered vehicles along with adequate recharging stations.

The above referenced rail lines must be viewed as central to carbon reduction efforts as they will play a key role in current and future industrial development in Lewis County.

Industries looking forward to more efficient railroad transportation are agriculture, primarily in the expanding grain production in Lewis County and in receiving the necessary inputs such as fertilizer for crop production, logging, the chemical industry and Omni Filter.

Shipping by rail is far more efficient than transportation by tractor trailer truck and it is unlikely that electric tractor trailer type trucks will be able to handle the shipment of products from the county, as well as supplying the necessary inputs needed by industry by 2030, with goals being established as far out as 2050. Railroads can and should be utilized in a more timely manner. See links attached hereto. ([Freight trains are our future | Popular Science \(popsci.com\)](#)

and ([UP: Pros & Cons of Rail: Shipping Cost, Speed, Capacity and More](#)). Railroads will be, indeed must be seen, as the future in both Climate Change policy and efficient transportation of industrial supplies and products.

[Infrastructure to support a 100% zero-emission tractor-trailer fleet in the United States by 2040 - International Council on Clean Transportation \(theicct.org\)](#)

It also must be stressed that rail lines themselves may soon be converted to electric making them even more advantageous. Many European countries and China have already converted to electric rail and abandoning more railroads will put the United States even further behind our competitors in developing clean and efficient transportation.

Complimenting the concerns for the support and development of industry is the Justice40 Initiative, a program to improve the environment, transportation, and economic status of underserved communities. This is a priority of the Biden Administration.

Lewis County consistently ranks as one of the poorest County's in New York State. Abandonment of these rail lines will only add to local economic problems and the problem of being transportation underserved.

We respectfully request that the NTSB reject the request by Genesee Valley Transportation for abandonment of the 37 miles of railroad in Lewis County, N.Y.

Respectfully,
Bruce Krug, Lewis County Taxpayer
2771 West Road
Constableville, New York 13325

I certify the parties of record have been sent a copy on August 19, 2023