

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

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**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 Taxpayer**

Response to Lawrence Dolhof submission of 10/3/2023,

In his submission to the Surface Transportation Board (STB). Mr. Dolhof, accuses Lewis County residents who oppose the proposed abandonment of the Lowville Beaver River Rail Line (LLBR) and the Mohawk Adirondack & Northern Railroad (MAN) of making "generalized, inaccurate statements and positions". He then goes on to state generalized, inaccurate statements and positions. This letter will address one of them.

He states that the necessity to reduce carbon emissions will not bring back these rail lines in Lewis County. Climate change has caused a major push to develop transportation that lowers carbon emissions. At the forefront has been electric vehicles and electric trains. It will be some time before electric powered tractor trailer trucks will be produced in the numbers need to haul the cargo and reduce emissions. Electric trains are already well developed and in widespread use around the world and soon will be in the U. S. as well. The LLBR and the MAN lines should not be abandoned as the rail beds can be adapted to clean, low emission trains that could be used to product from Lewis County in place of an inadequate number of electric powered tractor trailers.

Mr. Dolhof states in regard to "no rail transportation for over 15 years", that "The County was poor then and continues to be considered one of the poorest counties in the state because there is no viable economic development other than its main and growing resource- recreation and tourism opportunities." Recreation is not the leading industry in Lewis County, agriculture and the wood products industry far outstrip the economic contribution of recreation. For nearly two decades, Lewis County government has been focused on recreation, and yet as Mr. Dolhof states, the county "continues to be one of the poorest counties in the state". Indeed, besides being a poor county, the 2020 Census showed that Lewis County has lost population. A modern railroad system can help all facets of the economy and is a part of basic industry that fuels growth. Abandonment of the LBRR and MAN would deprive Lewis County of another avenue for industrial development.

Lewis County needs the tools to develop economically and abandonment of the LBRR and MAN would deprive the county of one of those tools.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cc: All parties