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Ms Cynthia T. Brown, Chief Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Proceedings
395 E. Street S.W, Room 1034
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Docket No AB 768X- Mohawk, Adirondack & Northern Railroad (MAN)
Docket No AB 180X- Lowville Beaver River Railroad (LBRR)

Comments opposing the abandonment

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing to oppose the abandonment of the MAN and LBRR for a recreational trail that is being proposed by the Lewis County legislators. My name is John Williams and I am a Lewis County taxpayer as well as the President of the Board of Directors at the Lowville Farmers Coop which borders the railroad in the Village of Lowville. Lowville Farmers Coop is a member owned business.

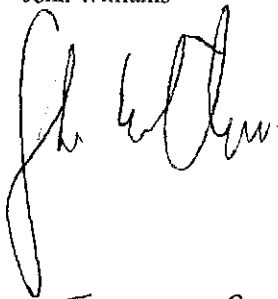
As New York State and the Federal government move toward reduction of fossil fuels transportation the need for railroad transportation will become even more crucial to the survival of businesses that need to import and export their commodities in and out of Lewis County. We are one business along the railroad that are forced to utilize trucks to move our products. If diesel trucks become obsolete, we will be forced to utilize high priced inefficient electric trucks, (reality tells us they will not work in Northern New York.) If these tracks are removed next to the business that I am a director, it will severely limit any future development exporting and importing agricultural commodities. To name a few industries on the rail line, we have Kraft Foods, AMF (the only manufacturer of bowling pins worldwide within 200' of the railroad.) Mativ paper mill (within 15' of the rails).

While I realize the high cost to rehabilitate these tracks into a functional system, I am convinced that if they are allowed to be abandoned and removed there will be no chance if them coming back. Future development of our business which supports the agriculture community in Lewis County will be non-existent.

I asking that the Surface Transportation Board help us to keep our options open with the denial of this abandonment plan.

Respectfully,

John Williams



I certify the parties of record have been sent a copy