

# TOWN OF MILFORD

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN



May 22, 2017

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief, Section of Administration  
Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1034  
Washington, DC 20024

AB 1256

243543

Re: Docket No. AB-~~3X~~ (Sub-~~NX~~ 1X8)  
Boston and Maine Corporation and Springfield Terminal  
Railway Company -- Adverse Discontinuance --  
Milford-Bennington Railroad Company, Inc.

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
May 30, 2017  
Part of  
Public Record

Dear Ms. Brown:

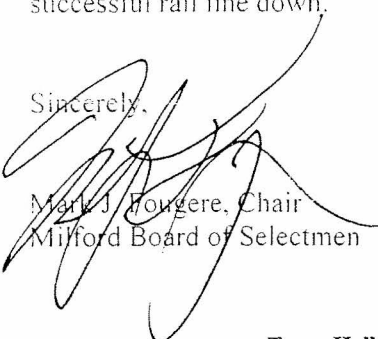
The Town of Milford, New Hampshire has become aware that Pan Am Railways has filed a Petition for Waiver at the Surface Transportation Board reflecting its intent to seek adverse discontinuance of Milford-Bennington Railroad's operations over a section of rail line through portions of Milford and Wilton. This action is just another attempt by Boston and Maine to shut down the operations of this local line and is a further example of its hostile 30 year campaign to disrupt a local industry.

The use of this rail line over the last 30 years has removed the impact from thousands of trucks from our local road system. This efficient transportation alternative removes overburden trucks from the road network, improving the safety to the general public and increasing the life span of our roadways. In addition, if trucks were to return as the only alternative for moving stone, our neighboring community would see an even greater impact on its road network and downtown.

The rail line provides efficient transportation of bulk stone, provides a significant service to a local industry employing residents and supports the town's tax base. Milford-Bennington, unlike Boston & Maine, maintains its track system to ensure the safe transportation of goods. Removing Milford-Bennington's rights to use the B & M's line from Milford to Wilton would only further erode the possibility of additional train service to the region and result in a downward spiral of rail maintenance that is clearly evident on the rail line under their control between Nashua and Milford (which has a maximum 5 mph speed limit given its horrendous condition).

The Town encourages the Board to closely scrutinize the pending petition for waiver and future filings to assure that the important local community interests in Milford-Bennington's rail service are considered and protected. The Board should also examine B & M's motives in this case, as it has a long history of unsupported legal maneuvers to shut this successful rail line down.

Sincerely,

  
Mark J. Bongere, Chair  
Milford Board of Selectmen



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2017, a copy of the foregoing **Reply of Milford-Bennington Railroad Company, Inc. TO Petition for Waiver** was served by electronic mail and first class mail, postage prepaid, upon:

Robert B. Burns, Esq.  
Corporate Counsel  
Pan Am Railways  
1700 Iron Horse Park  
North Billerica, MA 01862-1641  
[rburns@panam.com](mailto:rburns@panam.com)

and by first class mail, postage prepaid, upon:

Granite State Concrete Company Inc.  
407 Elm Street  
Milford, NH 03055

Richard G. Verney  
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer  
Monadnock Paper Mill, Inc.  
117 Antrim Road  
Bennington, NH 03442-4205

John G. MacLellan, III  
JG MacLellan Concrete Company  
180 Phoenix Avenue  
Lowell, MA 01852

Paul A. Worsowicz  
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214 North Main Street  
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Anna M. Philbrick  
May 23, 2017