

AB 1256

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Deana Darby
6 Bennington Battle Trail
Wilton NH
03086
ddarby108@gmail.com

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Surface Transportation Board 395 E Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20423

Reference Docket No. AB 1256

To Whom This May Concern:

As a resident of Wilton, NH, I am writing in opposition to the request by the Boston and Maine Corporation and the Springfield Terminal Railway Company (collectively, Pan Am) to discontinue the operating authority held by the Milford-Bennington Railroad Company over a rail line on the Hillsborough Branch.

If the Milford-Bennington Railroad Co. was no longer able to access this stretch of rails, there would be debilitating consequences for our already struggling small town and its plans for economic development. My concerns fall into two areas:

Wilton has a large gravel operation in town which utilizes the Milford-Bennington Railroad Co to transport gravel from Wilton to Milford. Without this rail line, the gravel operation would revert back to hauling the gravel using trucks traveling through the main streets of downtown Wilton. It is estimated that the Milford-Bennington Railroad moves 30 rail cars a day which would necessitate 90 trucks a day in each direction. This would render it impossible to make Wilton's downtown Main Street a pedestrian-friendly, safe and vibrant area.

There is a citizen-led effort to revitalize the Wilton Tourist Train, which ran successfully until 2006. Bringing back the Tourist Train has been among the top initiatives voted on by the town residents, and is project currently being actively researched by the Wilton Economic Development Committee to increase visitors and business to downtown Wilton. We need this rail line to continue to be operated by Milford-Bennington Railroad for the Tourist Train to be technically and financially viable.

I strongly urge the Surface Transportation Board to reject this proposal by Pan Am as it would significantly impact the future economic growth of Wilton.

Thank you,
Deana Darby
6 Bennington Battle Trail
Wilton NH 03086

I certify that I have this day served copies of the document upon the Parties of Record in this proceeding, by U.S. Mail or E-mail.

Signature Deana Darby

Date_5/11/2018



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