

MITCHELL STONE PRODUCTS, LLC.

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July 18, 2019

Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Chairperson
United States Surface Transportation Board
395 E St., SW,
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 18, 2019
Part of
Public Record

Subject: AB-1261

Dear Chairperson Begeman:

On August 22, 2018, I wrote you regarding Mitchell Stone Products' opposition to the New York State Department of Environmental Protection Adverse Abandonment Application of the Saratoga and North Creek Railroad – AB-1261.

Mitchell Stone Products has approximately 80 million tons of high friction aggregates at our Tahawus Mine property in Essex County, New York. All of this product has been already mined and sitting on the ground from a previous mining operation that ran from the 1940s through the 1980s. This product meets DOT specifications for highway paving projects in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Our current sales volume of approximately 60,000 tons annually is limited to a 50 - 75 mile radius via our only mode of transportation -- truck.

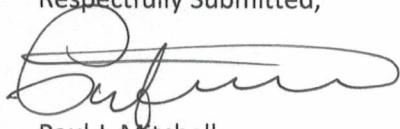
At a national level, I've read with great interest the alleged harm to so-called "captive" shippers -- those served by one railroad, but where trucking and/or barge options undeniably exist. Unfortunately, presently my business is truly captive to only one mode, and that mode will not enable me to compete for new business into longer-haul markets. Utilizing only trucks will not enable the speedier clean-up of property that many Adirondacks constituents want to see restored to a more pristine condition. Bottom-line, rail must be an option for us; and I also believe responsible public policy will be served by taking trucks off roadways and minimizing CO2 emissions.

We are working with a number of potential partners to develop a competitive supply chain to the NY, NJ, and PA markets. The Saratoga and North Creek Railroad is a vital element to our longer-term success.

If the STB approves the adverse abandonment application, Mitchell Stone Products will be irreparably harmed. We continue to oppose this application and ask the STB to deny it.

CC: All Parties of Record

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul J. Mitchell', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Paul J. Mitchell

Member and Owner

Mitchell Stone Products