

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**Docket No. AB 1261****ENTERED**
Office of Proceedings
September 30, 2019
Part of
Public Record**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**
—ADVERSE ABANDONMENT—
SARATOGA AND NORTH CREEK RAILWAY IN TOWN OF JOHNSBURG, N.Y.**REVOLUTION RAIL COMMENTS**

Revolution Rail Company ("RRC") respectfully submits its comments concerning the proposed adverse abandonment in the above-captioned proceeding in accordance with the Surface Transportation Board's ("STB") August 28, 2019 order. In RRC's August 15 letter filed herein, it opposed the adverse abandonment application. However, RRC now takes no position in this proceeding but strongly urges the Board to take its present situation into consideration when ruling on this matter. RRC provides a highly beneficial service to the area in northeastern New York on a rail line subject to the jurisdiction of the STB. This rail operation is clearly in the public interest as discussed below.

As noted in RRC's letter to the STB, RRC is a railbiking excursion company launched in July 2017 based in North Creek, NY. It has a contract in place with Saratoga and North Creek Railway ("SNCR") to operate over the rail line at issue here for the next two years. Railbiking involves pedaling specially designed vehicles on railroad tracks. Since the beginning of this unique operation, RRC's business has employed 22 people, paid out over \$150,000 in wages, and generated over \$37,000 in federal and state tax revenue. RRC has made dozens of cash and in-kind donations to local and regional organizations and brought well over 35,000 people to North Creek to enjoy an accessible, affordable, and family friendly excursion while exploring a portion of the Adirondacks in a low-impact way.

RRC's operation is organized around respect for, and a desire to share, the experience of the Adirondack wilderness with everyone in a unique and low impact manner. Riding with RRC does not require specialized equipment, training, or a burdensome time commitment. RRC customers are an exceptionally diverse group of people, ranging in age from 4 weeks to 94 years old. In under three hours, they are able to explore a 3.5 mile stretch of the Hudson River and adjacent forest in New York's Adirondack Park.

RRC's operations have had a substantial positive impact to the immediate local community in and around Johnsbury, NY, as well as to the overall region, both through its immediate financial contribution and the multiplier effect of bringing many thousands of new tourists to the region.

RRC has had positive discussions with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and SNCR regarding its contract to operate on the rail line and desire to continue to provide this valuable service to the community for many years to come. RRC hopes that a privately negotiated solution to its issues can be reached. However, if that is not possible, RRC respectfully asks the STB to protect its contractual interest in operating over this rail line in any decision its makes in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Dupee and Robert Harte
Revolution Rail Co.

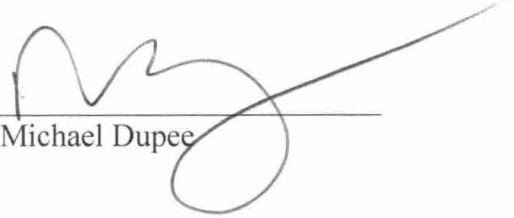
3 Railroad Place, PO Box 202
North Creek, NY 12853

Owners, Revolution Rail Co.

Dated: September 30, 2019

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Michael Dupee, hereby certify that a copy of the REVOLUTION RAIL COMMENTS dated September 30, 2019, was served by U.S. Mail, first class postage prepaid, upon all other parties of record.



Michael Dupee