

FI-16563

COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN
GAME & FISHERIES
MAJORITY POLICY

CAUCUSES

NORTHWEST
FIREFIGHTERS



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MICHAEL K. HANNA, MEMBER

29 BELLEFONTE AVENUE
LOCK HAVEN, PENNSYLVANIA 17745
PHONE: (570) 748-5480
TOLL-FREE: 1 (800) 845-7846

102 TURNPIKE STREET
P.O. BOX 1134

MILESBERG, PENNSYLVANIA 16853
PHONE: (814) 353-8780

302 MAIN CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 202076

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2076
PHONE: (717) 772-2283

March 19, 2009

Ms. Danielle Gosselin
Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Environmental Filing STB Finance Docket No. 35116

Dear Ms. Gosselin:

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter that was sent to you by our constituent regarding the proposed reconstruction of a rail line by RJ Corman in northwestern Centre County. I share my constituent's concerns and respectfully request that her comments be considered.

Please provide a copy of any response that you send to my constituent. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Very Truly Yours,

Mike

Mike Hanna

76th District
State Representative

MKH/tla

Enclosure

Cc: Teresa Davis

FEB 26 2009

332 E High St
Bellefonte PA 16823
February 23, 2009

Danielle Gosselin
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington DC 20423

Attention: Environmental Filling
STB Finance Docket No. 35116

Dear Ms. Gosselin:

As a concerned citizen living in Centre County, I am voicing my concern about the proposed reconstruction of a rail line in our northwest part of our county for the purposes of servicing the proposed Resource Recovery Landfill, a proposed industrial park, and a quarry.

Being one of many recreational users, I drive near this area once or twice a week. As I drive through some high areas of the plateau, I gaze across all of this scenic area and try to take a mental inventory of what's to come. I see a huge parcel of torn-up land, being dug to infinity by people and machines, neither having a clue as to what they are doing to this precious resource!!

Just imagine, if you will, deciding to take a vacation from your highly stressful job with family or friends. Maybe you do not have much vacation time from work, or you can not afford that highly prized experience of traveling to a distant idyllic "hot" spot that affords the kind of recreation you could only dream of. But instead there is a near and affordable place to go for rejuvenation, our area*. After you are exiting Interstate 80, you soon encounter one of the "Welcome to PA Wilds Elk Scenic Drive" signs flanking the regional roads. They point the way to the great outdoors, and the promise of just what you have been waiting for, a long over-due reconnection with nature! Perhaps you like to hike, hunt, canoe or kayak, snowshoe, cross-country ski, photograph elk or other wildlife, to name a few activities. Maybe you would just like to experience peace and solitude, something you have not experienced in a long time. Finally, maybe you would like to impart some of these experiences to your children. And in doing so, an intrinsic benefit occurs, you give them a lasting, moral, thoughtful compass to guide them in life.

*Emilie Mabe
2/26/09*

Danielle Gosselin
Surface Transportation Board

2

February 23, 2009

Therefore, I invite you to come to our area and enjoy the above experiences that thousands of others have! But please do so before a possible railroad, a landfill, a quarry, and an industrial park grips the land. Because that is what will happen—such an egregious error will forever grip and mar the land and people in ways both seen and unseen. And it's all lying at the doorstep to one of the last of Pennsylvania's great wild scenic areas. Doesn't make sense, does it?

So please stand tall, and do not let the above scenario occur.

Sincerely,

Teresa Davis

Teresa Davis

* "...Quehanna Wild Area: it is the largest so-designated in the state, and the largest area of semi-wilderness between the Adirondacks and some of the national forests in Virginia and North Carolina, and thus many of the recreational users are from surrounding states.... this area is one of the few large areas available for backwoods hiking away from civilization. [I once received a phone call from a hiker in Ann Arbor Michigan, inquiring about Quehanna because it was closer to him than Michigan's Upper Peninsula.]" Ralph Seeley, Greate Buffalo Swamp, A Trail Guide and Regional History for the Moshannon State Forest and Nearby Parts of Clearfield and Centre Counties, July 2001, p. 50.

cc: to the following:

The Honorable Arlen Spector
PO Box 1092
Harrisburg, PA 17101

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
817 E. Bishop Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823

The Honorable Glenn W. Thompson
3555 Benner Pike, Suite 101
Bellefonte, PA 16823

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capital Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Michael Hanna
~~PO Box 1134~~
Milesburg, PA 16853
Danielle Gosselin
Surface Transportation Board

The Honorable H. Scott Conklin
301 South Allen Street, Suite 102
State College, PA 16801

The Honorable Kerry A. Benninghoff
209 South Allegheny Street
Bellefonte, PA, 16823

The Honorable Camille George
275 Spring Street
Houtzdale, PA 16651

Danielle Gosselin
Surface Transportation Board

3

February 23, 2009

Centre County Commissioners
Jon W. Eich -- Chairman
Rich Rogers
Steven G. Dershem
Willowbank County Office Building
420 Holmes Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Snow Shoe Township Supervisors
Rodney Preslovich, John Yecina, George Haynes
PO Box 65
Clarence, PA 16829

Rush Township Supervisors
Michael Savage, Patrick E. Couturiaux, Steven Knowles
PO Box 152
Philipsburg PA 16866

Cooper Township Supervisors (Clearfield)
Wayne Josephson, Charles Saggese, Charlie Engleman
PO Box 208
Kylertown, PA 16847

People Protecting Communities
P O Box 38
Clarence PA 16829-0038