

EI- 7413

5/2/08

Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, NW
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Ms Rutson:

I am writing in regards to the proposed rail line construction and operation by the RJ Corman Company between Wallacetown and Gorton in Clearfield and Centre counties, PA. I am strongly opposed to this project because the proposed route would cause the loss of almost 20 miles of the highly successful Snow Shoe Rails to Trails. Operating since the mid-1990's, the Snow Shoe Rails to Trails is a major ingredient to the Pennsylvania Wilds tourism and promotion efforts. It continues to be a very popular public rail trail that has helped rejuvenate the Central Pennsylvanian area. In addition, there are four federal agencies on record that have identified issues of concern regarding the proposed industrial project: Federal Highway Administration, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Army Corp of Engineers, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. At this time, the developer of the proposed industrial development project has addressed none of the environmental concerns raised by these agencies. Before any further steps are taken to move forward with this project, I request that an Environmental Impact Statement be completed. The potential environmental and financial impact of this proposed rail project warrants a complete environmental assessment.

Thank you for the consideration of this request. I truly believe that it is in the best interest of the Central Pennsylvania region.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Thorer