

STATE OF MAINE
COUNTY OF PENOBSCOT
COURT OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



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William Collins, County Administrator

COURTHOUSE
97 Hammond Street - Bangor, Maine 04401-4998

February 16, 2010

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Diana Wood
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway Ltd., Proposed Rail Abandonment

Dear Ms. Wood,

The Penobscot County Commissioners have reviewed the Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment regarding the proposed abandonment and discontinuance of operations of approximately 233 miles of main and branch line tracks of the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, which runs through Penobscot and Aroostook Counties in the State of Maine. The Commissioners are troubled by this proposal due to the reasons listed below:

- Discontinuing this service would result in additional truck traffic on State and Local roads. Additional truck traffic on these roads is not only a financial concern but is also a safety and environmental concern.
- Discontinuance of this service presents a greater financial burden to the existing Montreal, Maine & Atlantic customer base in an already difficult economic time.
- The proposed abandonment and discontinuance of service would result in an overall increase in energy consumption. As stated in the Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment, trucks would consume an additional 935,976 gallons of diesel fuel in the transport of freight currently being transported by the railroad.

Penobscot County Commissioners Chairman, Stephen Stanley also noted that the State of Maine has a financial interest in these lines through funding from the Industrial Rail Access Program. Mainly these projects have consisted of the addition of sidings for the loading of rail cars. Therefore, the Commissioners wish to formally file their opposition to the proposed abandonment and discontinuance of service of this railway.

Respectfully,

William J. Collins, County Administrator