



EI-16408

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CANOES-KAYAKS-SALES-RENTALS-INSTRUCTION

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01/22/09

Danielle Gosselin
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423
Attention: Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket No. 35116

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. My business is outfitting canoe and kayak outings in the Moshannon mountain top area. This is the area that will be affected by the proposed rebuilding of the RJCP rail line. This area has become a very popular recreation area because of its remoteness. The rebuilding of the rail line will adversely affect the recreational value of this area. If the rail line is rebuilt the existing Rails to Trails trail that many bikers, hikers, ATV folks come to enjoy will be gone. This will have a significant impact on the local economy. There will be no one coming to use that trail and spending money at local gas stations, restaurants, motels and other businesses. The rail line property is very close to 3 very popular canoeing and kayaking streams. Two of these streams are very popular Trout fishing streams. Rebuilding the rail line could jeopardize the water quality of the streams and could ruin the Trout fishing and adversely affect the solitude and wilderness experience of folks canoeing and kayaking. This will also have a negative effect on the local economy. Many people travel to these woods that the rail line passes through to enjoy the many vistas, old tunnels, the old viaduct, and historic remains of bygone eras. The economic impact of these activities is growing. This will be lost if the rail line is rebuilt.

Please demonstrate environmental and recreational stewardship by not allowing RJCP to rebuild this rail line and eliminate wilderness and adversely affect recreational opportunities.

Thank You for Your Time
Ed Bowman