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JOHN D. HEFFNER
(202) 742-8607
Direct Fax (202) 742-8697
John.Heffner@strasburger.com
January 26, 2012

BY E-FILING

Ms. Cynthia A. Brown
Chief of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTENET
Office of Proceedings

JAN 28 2012

Part of
Public Record

**RE: FD 35559, Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC
-Operation Exemption-Tahawus Line**

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing on behalf of Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC
("Saratoga to submit the following documents in support of Saratoga's position:

- Letter of support by the Lake Luzerne Chamber of Commerce
- Letter of support by Thurman Station Associates, Inc.
- Letter of support by Sher Millis
- Letter of support by Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Granger
- Emails expressing support by Sharon Thompson of Alpine Lodge and Scott Thompson, an individual

So far some 18 including governmental organizations, state officials, economic development agencies, tourist organizations, and ordinary citizens have expressed support for rail service.

Respectfully submitted,


John D. Heffner

Attachments

cc: all parties

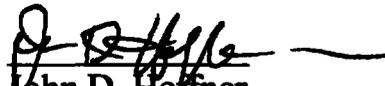
**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

FD 35559

**SARATOGA AND NORTH CREEK RAILWAY, LLC
—OPERATION EXEMPTION—
TAHAWUS LINE**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I mailed a copy of the "Support transmittal letter" of Saratoga And North Creek Railway, LLC, dated January 26, 2012, in the above-captioned proceeding by first class United States Mail and/or electronic transmission to all parties on the Board's service list on January 26, 2012:


John D. Heffner
Strasburger & Price
1700 K Street, N.W.
Suite 640
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 742-8607



**Lake Luzerne Regional
Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 222
Lake Luzerne, New York 12846-0222
(518) 696-3500
www.lakeluzernechamber.org

"A Year-round Adirondack Vacationland"
serving the Towns of
Corinth, Day, Hadley & Lake Luzerne

January 25, 2012

Ms. Cynthia A. Brown
Chief of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: FD 35559, Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC –
Operation Exemption - Tahawus Line

Dear Ms. Brown:

The members of the Lake Luzerne Regional Chamber of Commerce are writing this letter to you urging your favorable consideration of the application presently before you for an operation exemption of the Tahawus Line submitted by the Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC.

Our members and neighbors have been seriously involved with the economic and responsible environmental development of our communities located here in the Adirondack Park, NY, also known as the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor. We all see the addition of the Saratoga and North Creek Railway to our communities north of Saratoga Springs as a positive experience which all will benefit from. If for no other reason, the reduction of the trucks and automobiles on our ground transportation infrastructure in the park will greatly reduce the pollutions in the air and the maintenance and repairs of our roads. The economic and environmental benefits for the people and businesses who are here, greatly exceeds any objections a small group of people lobbying through "Protect the Adirondacks" can come up with.

We thank you in advance for your time in considering our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sher Millis".

Sher Millis,
Chamber Secretary

**THURMAN STATION ASSOCIATION
P. O. BOX 29
ATHOL, NY 12810**

January 25, 2012

Ms. Cynthia A. Brown
Chief of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: FD 35559, Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC - Operation Exemption, Tshawas Line

Dear Ms. Brown:

This letter is sent by Thurman Station Association, Inc., in support of use of the Tshawas line by Saratoga and North Creek Railway (SNCR) for the transporting of freight. Our organization, created in 2000, has been striving to find ways to help our community of Thurman, and the Adirondack region in general, to derive the greatest possible benefit from the newly reopened tracks. Historically the trains opened our region to greater industry and tourism. Today these tracks, and SNCR, promise economic growth and jobs in underserved regions of these mountains.

Thurman Station Association, Inc., appeals to the Surface Transportation Board to strongly consider the needs of the region as it evaluates this case.

Sincerely,


Persie R. Granger, President
Thurman Station Association

January 25, 2012

Ms. Cynthia A. Brown
Chief of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: FD 35559, Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC –
Operation Exemption-Tahawus Line

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing this letter to you in support of the Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC's request for the operation exemption of the Tahawus Line.

My studio is located at the junction of NYS's route 9N and Main Street, Corinth, NY, one of three formal "gateways to the Adirondacks". I have been at this location for 7 years. Along with many others, I have worked through various organizations along the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor to open up economic avenues for our communities. Many of us have supported the Saratoga and North Creek Railways efforts to establish a viable alternative to ground transportation for both recreational and economic development of our north country. Reducing the number of trucks and cars utilizing our road systems within the Adirondack Park makes sense to us. Not only from an environmental standpoint but also economic considering the maintenance costs for the existing road transportation systems.

We ask that your consideration be given to the people who actually live, work and raise their families here when reviewing the the S&NCRR's request for exemption.

Sincerely,



Sher Millis
Artist/Owner



Sher Millis Studio
225 Main St. Corinth, NY 12822
(518) 684-2519/(518) 578-2164
sherstudio@roadrunner.com
www.facebook.com/SHERSTUDIO

Mr. & Mrs. Richard D. Granger
11 Clarence Russell Road
Thurman, NY 12810

January 25, 2012

Ms. Cynthia A. Brown
Chief of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

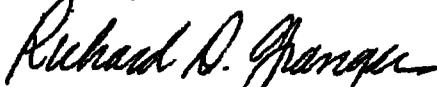
RE: FD 35559, Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC – Operation Exemption, Tahawus Line

Dear Ms. Brown:

As residents of the Adirondacks for forty-two years, we strongly disagree with the opposition expressed by Protect the Adirondacks! We believe that increasing jobs and improving the standard of living is a very real consideration in "protecting" our region. We think that opening the Tahawus line to freight transportation will benefit the North Country economy by providing new jobs. Moreover, the freight transportation will help keep Saratoga and North Creek Railway in a position to continue to operate and expand its passenger service, which already has infused energy into our regional tourist industry.

Please look at the big picture as you evaluate this issue.

Sincerely,



Richard D. and Persis R. Granger



Heffner, John D.

From: Ed Ellis [EllisE@iowapacific.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 2:29 PM
To: Todd Cecil; Heffner, John D.
Subject: FW: Train

From: Sarah Munley [mailto:MunleyS@Coloradotrain.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 12:51 PM
To: 'Ed Ellis' (ellis@iowapacific.com); Jack Dapkus (dapkusJ@iowapacific.com); Debra Goodman; 'Shelly Spendiff' (spendiffs@iowapacific.com); Iscraige@hotmail.com; Steve Torrico (TorricoS@iowapacific.com)
Cc: Lisa Audi; Amanda Mahar (amahar@edlewi.com)
Subject: FW: Train

Very well written and said.

From: Michael Bowers [mailto:choptankmills@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 12:33 PM
To: Sarah Munley
Subject: Fwd: Train

Sarah

A letter written by Sharon Taylor of the Alpine Lodge in response to a person who was thinking the railroad track to Tahaus would have been better as a "trail" I thought her response was good.
Mike

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Sharon Taylor <sharon@adironackalpinelodge.com>
Date: Wed, Jan 25, 2012 at 11:56 AM
Subject: Re: Train
To: thompson@beaverriver.com
Cc: Bowers Mike <choptankmills@gmail.com>, Torrico Steve <torricos@iowapacific.com>, info@gorechamber.com, stanton emily <skinorthcreek@gmail.com>

Hi Scott,

The advantage of the train ridership to the Community of North Creek was very substantial, even phenomenal!, through the summer and fall, but I don't have specific numbers of the tickets purchased. People were walking around, spending money for meals and in shops (small things they could carry with them) and even some staying overnight. The travelers included a significant number of senior citizens. The winter business has been disappointing for all involved. We are all disappointed- but hopeful! I am not sure its because of the non-snowiness.... For this winter season there is only 1 train that arrives from Saratoga at 9:15am. The only departing train that goes to Saratoga only leaves at 4:30. There are no scenic excursions to and from North Creek for the winter at this time.

Our community of North Creek has a disadvantage to overcome- that we are tackling together as a grass roots effort by the business community- to have enough "Things to do" for the visiting walking around train riders. The Train people have also invested significantly in this issue. SNCRR has arranged for music to be played at our beautiful Tannery Pond Community Center

1/25/2012

(the fees was waived by the Town for the venue) . In addition, SNCRR has leased a nice looking, but long vacant storefront (the old Mountain and Boardertown) for 1 year, renovated it to accommodate a number of small artisanal /craft type vendors anchored by an Adirondack Museum Retail shop. It is the intention of the Train People that this group of businesses will stand on their own at the end of the years lease. Unfortunately, it appears that this space will only be "up and running" for the summer season as it is not yet functioning/occupied.

The existing shops and restaurants are enjoying the success of the summer-fall business, the business community is very happy with new revenues and some are offering more services i.e food tasting, craft making demonstrations, book signings, artist-in-residences. There are some spring-up type businesses taking people for snowshoe tours, cooking classes, historic walks. Some of this is happening and some is planned for either soon (this winter) or for the summer season. Hopefully we will be able to offer the travelers scenic lift rides at the ski bowl/Gore Mountain for the summer and fall..... Remember, IT TAKES A COMMUNITY!

Our best to you all on the Remsen-Lake Placid corridor! Sharon Taylor, The Alpine Lodge

On Jan 24, 2012, at 8:14 PM, Thompson's@hughes.net wrote:

As a business on the Remsen Lake Placid corridor I am very interested in the advantages of a Scenic Train on this line. I have been of the opinion that a Recreational Trail would have more economic benefits, but the press has touted the benefits of your train. Could you tell me the value of the Train's operation; not the Railroad's success, but the benefits to the community.

Thank you for your time,

Scott S. Thompson
Norridgewock III
Beaver River
150 Norridgewock Lake Road
Eagle Bay, New York 13331
scott@beaverriver.com

Scott S. Thompson
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Beaver River
150 Norridgewock Lake Road
Eagle Bay, New York 13331
scott@beaverriver.com