

May 10, 2018

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

Reference Docket No. AB 1256

As a member of the Wilton, NH Economic Development Team, I am writing in opposition to the request by the Boston and Maine Corporation and the Springfield Terminal Railway Company (collectively, Pan Am) to discontinue the operating authority held by the Milford-Bennington Railroad Company over a rail line on the Hillsborough Branch.

If the Milford-Bennington Railroad Co. was no longer able to access this stretch of rails, there would be disastrous consequences for our small town of Wilton and its future economic development. My concerns fall into two areas:

- Wilton has a large gravel operation in town which relies on the Milford-Bennington Railroad Co to haul gravel from Wilton to Milford. If they no longer had access to this rail line, the gravel operation would revert back to hauling the gravel using trucks traveling through the main streets of our small town. It is estimated that the Milford-Bennington Railroad has historically moved 30 rail cars a day which would equate to 90 trucks a day in each direction. This would completely disrupt our focus on making Wilton's downtown Main Street a pedestrian-friendly, safe and walkable area. The safety, noise and other environmental concerns with this many gravel trucks traveling our streets daily are overwhelming.
- In the past year there has been a citizen-led effort to resurrect the Wilton Tourist Train, which ran successfully for several years until the owner's death in 2006. Bringing back the Tourist Train has been among the top initiatives voted on by the town residents, and is project currently being actively pursued by the Wilton Economic Development Committee as a way to increase visitors and business to downtown Wilton. We need this rail line to continue to be operated by Milford-Bennington Railroad for the Tourist Train to be technically and financially viable.

I strongly urge the Surface Transportation Board to reject this proposal by Pan Am as it would significantly impact the future economic growth of Wilton.

Thank you.

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