Dear

I write in support of the efforts by many residents of the Adirondack Region in the Tri-Lakes to retain and upgrade the rail infrastructure to Lake Placid in the Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor.

The intransigence of those who seek the removal of the rails is unacceptable. Preserving this economic asset and implementing the policy adopted in 1996 by New York State after a lengthy and comprehensive process is the best investment in economic opportunity today and for the future. Trails-with-rails is the win-win for residents and visitors alike.

Our region offers unparalleled scenic beauty. Rail service, in an upgraded and modern transportation corridor, affords visitors and residents of all ages and abilities the opportunity to experience the splendor in three seasons. Winter recreation in the corridor could continue if needed; there are certainly thousands of miles already in existence for use by snowmobilers and there are plans for more.

The promised investment in additional trails within and alongside the Corridor is long overdue. Volunteers have completed much of the necessary advance planning and layout for a safe, year-round trail from Tupper Lake to Saranac Lake; this trail was developed using NYS DEC guidelines and offers a varied experience for hikers, cyclists, cross country skiers, and snowshoe enthusiasts. The volunteers remain ready to work with NYS agencies to ensure the trail is built.

The Adirondack Region, especially the largest and best-known communities of Saranac Lake and Lake Placid, need the option of rail transportation to assure and encourage economic opportunity. Those opportunities include the phenomenal success of the newly inaugurated rail bike business today, and the potential for another winter Olympics. Travelers from around the world are interested in both.

Your legacy as an elected official should not include removal of an important economic asset in this region that as a consequence would unquestionably diminish present and future opportunities.

Respectfully,