

**Petition by Oneida County, New York,
Board of Legislators
for Memorializing Petition**



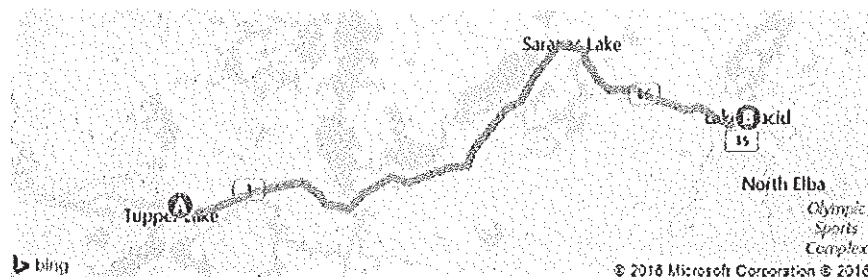
F.N. 2016 ____

A MEMORIALIZING PETITION *OPPOSING* THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY'S DECISION TO SUPPORT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE LAKE PLACID TRAVEL COORIDOR AND IN *SUPPORT* OF RESTORING INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN THAT CORRIDOR TO ENABLE FULL SERVICE BY THE ADIRONDACK SCENIC RAILROAD

SPONSORS: Messrs. Porter, Convertino, Davis, Paperella, Waterman,

WHEREAS, the Oneida County Board of Legislators deems rail service as a critical component to the preservation and rehabilitation of all surviving infrastructure from Utica to Lake Placid in the Adirondacks; and the Board recognizes that this asset is listed as a national historic treasure on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the decision made by the Adirondack Agency to support a plan that would destroy a portion (34 miles from Tupper Lake to Lake Placid) of the Remsen to Lake Placid Corridor's rail infrastructure and which threatens the existence of the entire Adirondack Scenic Railroad and could put them out of business; and



WHEREAS, the Adirondack Scenic Railroad is the second largest tourist attraction in Oneida County and grew to a record 75,000 passengers in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Railroad privately maintains the corridor and supports economic development in local communities and the cost of enhancing and maintaining the railway is not significantly more than the cost of destroying it and building an alternative trail for recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, Oneida County Tourism, the County Board of Legislators as well as neighboring Franklin County have all formally expressed support for the retention and restoration of the railroad infrastructure, from Remsen to Lake Placid, and further support the exploration of options to create and expand safe snowmobile access throughout the corridor in conjunction with the original 1996 Unit Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the DEC's Alternative 7 plan is a poorly conceived amendment to the carefully planned but largely unimplemented 1996 Unit Management Plan and is therefore not in the best interest of the communities along the line; and

WHEREAS, the Remsen to Lake Placid Travel Corridor is the only State Land Unit, where the success of a Unit Management Plan depends largely on the success of a private business entity; and

WHEREAS, Alternative 7 is not consistent with the State Land Master Plan (SLMP) and the SLMP therefore should have been amended before the Park Agency approved the Unit Management; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Railroad is a unique transportation asset, providing rail access from the Mohawk Valley to the Adirondack High Peaks; and

WHEREAS, the rehabilitation of the remainder of this infrastructure from Remsen to Lake Placid for spring, summer and fall rail service would support economic development through increased tourism, while preserving usage of the rail corridor for winter sports; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2016, the Preservation League of New York State, an organization which highlights New York's most endangered places through its "Seven to Save" list, has designated the Adirondack Railroad as one of the "Seven to Save" for 2016-2017.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Legislators is opposed to the Adirondack Park Agency's decision and any proposal that destroys instead of rebuilds critical rail infrastructure that accommodates the Adirondack Scenic Railroad ; and

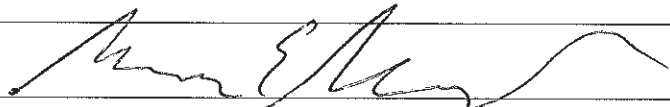
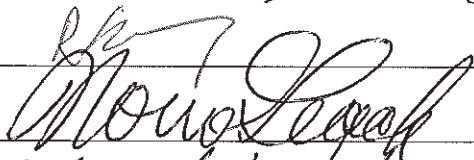
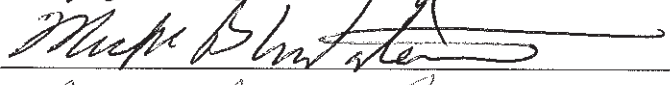
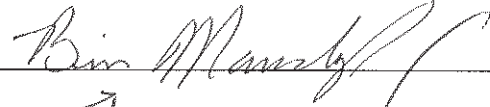
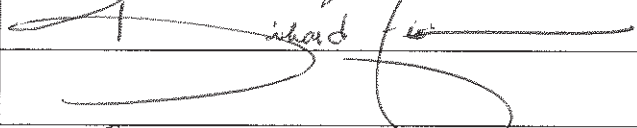


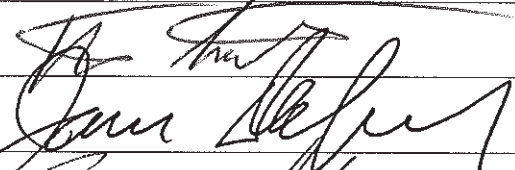
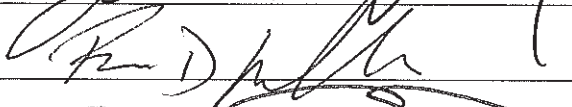
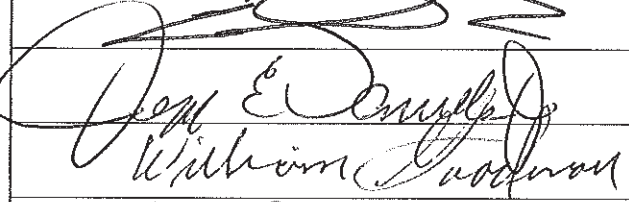




BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Legislators would like to reiterate its support for the existing plan to restore the rail corridor from Remsen to Lake Placid while also providing access and infrastructure to winter sports enthusiasts, thus expanding upon an invaluable and growing tourist attraction and resource to the area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Petition shall be forwarded by mail or email to the following:

New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York State Department of Environment Conservation Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos, Adirondack Park Agency Chairwoman Leilani Ulrich, New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Matthew J. Driscoll, New York State Senator Joseph A. Griffo, New York State Assembly Representative Anthony Brindisi, New York State Assembly Representative Claudia R. Tenney, New York State Assembly Representative Ken Blankenbush, New York State Assemblyman Marc Butler, New York State Senator David Valesky, New York State Assembly Representative William Magee, County Executive Anthony Picente, Jr., Senator Betty Little, Assemblywoman Janet Duprey, Mayor Robert Palmieri and DEC Regional Office 5 and DEC Regional Office 6.

Legislators Supporting Petition

Legislators Opposing Petition

The enclosed petition represents the opinion of those members of the Oneida County Board of Legislators signing the same regarding the contents or subject matter of the petition. Under the Rules of the Board, a Legislator may sign said petition or may, in the alternative, elect not to sign the petition. There are 23 members of the Oneida County Board of Legislators.

Date: March 9, 2016