

Good evening,

I am Al Heywood, President of the Adirondack Railway Preservation Society. We are the operators of the Adirondack Scenic Railroad.

As you maybe aware, we provide service on sections of the rail corridor from Utica to Lake Placid. Presently we operate between Utica and Carter (just north of Old Forge) and also between Saranac Lake and Lake Placid. The State is the owner of this line from Remsen to Lake Placid. In 1997, New York State through the Department of Transportation created a three phase plan to restore service on the entire line. This was originally to have been completed by now. Phase One has been completed but, progress since that time has come to a virtual standstill.

We clearly have a very dramatic impact on the tourism industry in the Adirondacks. Attached to these notes you will find a letter from Paul Ziegler, director of the Oneida County Convention & Visitors Bureau reflecting on our impact and the need to complete the project. Additional letters from businesses along the corridor are also available to you. Growth that is having an economic impact is clearly visible along the corridor. Holland Patent has restored their station and it is now used for an increasing number of area activities. One of the largest proposed projects is at the station in Remsen. The project underway there will be the creation of a village of craft & artisans shops, performance venues, and restaurants build around the Welsh heritage of that area which will create many jobs. The Old Forge area and its merchants see a large influx of tourists everyday that we arrive with a train from Utica. This often includes bus groups from outside the area including out of state groups. Tupper Lake is rebuilding their station in preparation of the restoration of rail service. This will tie in with the recently completed Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks located in Tupper Lake.

Gary Douglas of the Plattsburg – North Country Chamber of Commerce recently told the Governor's representatives that the two things that the North Country needed most for economic development were the completion of the railroad and high speed internet. A growing partnership of organizations in that area has created an Adirondack On Track Partnership. Their membership list is attached.

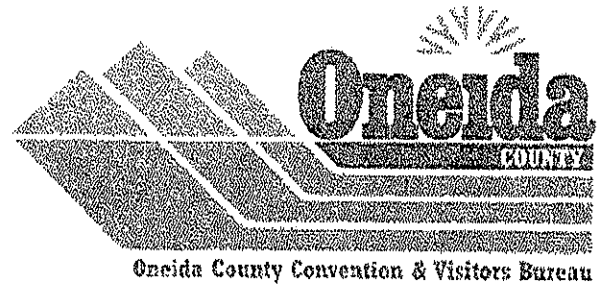
We draw tourists from a very large geographic area. Presently, we are running our Polar Express. We have sold over 8,000 tickets. The overwhelming majority of those are people from outside this area including many from all of neighboring states & Canada. The economic impact on area hotels, restaurants etc. is quite large. Our ridership has increased 50% since 2005.

This is the only rail corridor through the center of the Adirondacks. A noted recently a Wall Street Journal reporting on the increased role that rail will play in our economy. There certainly will never be an interstate highway built through this area. We need to preserve this historic and vital rail corridor. The economic revitalization of the upstate area needs this restoration of rail service.

We asked that the state join with us in completing the final two phases to preserve this historic corridor and restore rail service on this entire line.

May 30, 2007

Congressman Michael Arcuri
10 Broad Street
Utica, NY 13501



Dear Congressman Arcuri,

We're jumping on the hand-pump car as they say. We have supported the efforts of the Adirondack Scenic Railroad since their first train ride, for many reasons, not the least of which is the volunteer spirit.

As a promotion agency, we believe in bringing people into our area. The area must entertain them, be hospitable and get them to stay overnight. Our rating as a promotion agency is tied to the last.

Many of the excursions are loaded with local people enjoying the scenery and the RR experience. But with a ridership of 530,000 plus (includes 3 stations) plus over the past ten years and if only 25% were from outside the area, we can interpolate an economic impact. For every person over-nighting, the industry figures they spend \$182.00 per person per day. If not over-nighting, lodging is half, \$91.00 per person.

Let's say that brings in new money of \$12,000,000. That's twelve million dollars of NEW money into the area. That's well over one million dollars each year. Sounds like a no brainer to support the railroad.

We use the railroad whenever we can when we set up itineraries for motorcoaches coming to or traveling through Oneida County. We suggest it to groups coming into our area for conventions and conferences. And we support the Thendara station excursions even though they are in Herkimer County because TOURISM works only if we WORK TOGETHER.

Money for restoration and upkeep and cosmetics is just good business sense. Regrettably it costs money but the investment will pay off. Like the investment in the connection to Union Station will help integrate the Adirondack Scenic Railroad into the transportation system. **It seems that the next logical step would be support of the rehabilitation of the 74 miles between Thendara and Saranac Lake thereby completing this historic track from Utica to Lake Placid.** This will have a positive economic impact for both the Lake Placid area and Central New York.

Don't look to any stock exchange for the value of this volunteer enterprise. Look into the hearts of people that truly believe that railroading will always have its place in New York State history!

Sincerely,

Paul Ziegler, CTP/CTIS
President

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 **ADIRONDACK
ON TRACK** 
PARTNERSHIP

A broad and growing coalition in support of the preservation and upgrade of the Adirondack rail line from Remsen to Lake Placid as a key economic asset.

We call for the commitment of the required resources by the State of New York from the 2005 Transportation Bond Act for the rehabilitation and modernization of the entire line (estimated cost: \$20 million), with priority commitment to the segment between Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake (estimated cost: \$6.7 million).

THE PARTNERSHIP

PLATTSBURGH-NORTH COUNTRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	TUPPER LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SARANAC LAKE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	LAKE PLACID/ESSEX COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU
SENATOR BETTY LITTLE	ASSEMBLYMAN CHRIS ORTLOFF
SENATOR RAYMOND MEIER	ASSEMBLYWOMAN TERESA SAYWARD
ADIRONDACK-NORTH COUNTRY ASSOCIATION (ANCA)	ASSEMBLYWOMAN DEDE SCOZZAFAVA
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF THE ADIRONDACKS	FRANKLIN COUNTY LEGISLATURE
ADIRONDACK RAIL PRESERVATION SOCIETY	ADIRONDACK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
VILLAGE OF TUPPER LAKE	FRANKLIN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
VILLAGE OF SARANAC LAKE	TOWN OF TUPPER LAKE
VILLAGE OF LAKE PLACID	TOWN OF NORTH ELBA
NEXT STOP TUPPER LAKE	TOWN OF ST. ARMAND
FRANKLIN COUNTY EMPIRE ZONE	TUPPER LAKE REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE
JARDEN PLASTIC SOLUTIONS.	NORTH COUNTRY INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL
ADIRONDACK COUNCIL	ADIRONDACK CLUB/BIG TUPPER
CENTRAL ADIRONDACK ASSOCIATION	WAWBEEK RESORT
CENTRAL ADIRONDACK PARTNERSHIP (CAP-21)	ESSEX COUNTY BUSINESS COUNCIL
OLYMPIC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (ORDA)	ADIRONDACK ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES
PAUL SMITHS COLLEGE	ADIRONDACK OBSERVATORY
ESSEX COUNTY IDA	LODGE AT LAKE CLEAR
ADIRONDACK REGION TOURISM	WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY