



**Adirondack Recreational Trail Advocates**  
**P.O. Box 1081**  
**Saranac Lake, NY 12983**

April 26, 2013

Joe Martens  
 Commissioner, NYSDEC  
 625 Broadway  
 Albany NY 12233-1011

Joan McDonald  
 Commissioner, NYSDOT  
 50 Wolf Road  
 Albany NY 12232

Terry DeFranco Martino  
 Executive Director, APA  
 P.O. Box 99  
 1133 NYS Route 86  
 Ray Brook NY 12977

Dear Commissioners Martens and McDonald, and Director Martino:

This letter constitutes our formal request that your departments and agency reconstitute the Inter-Agency Task Force specified in the 1995 Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor Final Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (the "Plan") and instruct that Task Force to perform a review of the Plan, as required by the Plan itself. In making this request we are joining with over 11,000 citizens who have formally, under separate cover, petitioned the State for development of a recreation trail and the towns, villages, counties and other not-for-profit organizations, all with standing in this matter and listed below, who have passed formal resolutions binding on their jurisdictions that call for either the immediate removal of the rails and construction of a recreation trail, or for a review of the Plan to re-determine the best uses of the travel corridor.

Time is of the essence, as the review called for in the Plan is 13 years past-due, there are now numerous studies showing the lost economic benefits accruing the longer the corridor remains substantially unused, and the Plan no longer adequately addresses the environmental impacts of the "preferred alternative", given the significant changes in the 18 years since the Plan was developed.

A review of the Plan is a prerequisite to all economic development in the corridor, including, for example, our organization or others being able to seek funding for recreational development along the corridor. The 1995 Plan's "preferred alternative" use of the corridor, i.e., restored regular train service, has not materialized, and the majority of the trackage - over 80 miles - has not had regular passenger or freight service for over 40 years. It is time to make use of this invaluable resource for the benefit of the communities along its path and for all of the citizens of the state.

Please let us know that you are acting on this request.

Sincerely,

Joseph Mercurio  
 President

c.c. Governor Andrew Cuomo

Resolutions passed by	Review UMP	Remove rails
Village of Lake Placid		✓
Town of North Elba		✓
St Lawrence County		✓
Village of Saranac Lake	✓	
Village of Tupper Lake	✓	
Town of Tupper Lake	✓	
Town of Webb	✓	
Town of Harriestown	✓	
Town of Piercefield		✓
Beaver River Property Owners	✓	
NY State Snowmobile Association		✓
Town of Colton		✓

**ARTA Board: Tupper Lake: Hope Frenette, Chris Keniston, Maureen Peroza; Saranac Lake: Dick Beamish, Lee Keet, Joe Mercurio; Lake Clear: David Banks; Keene: Tony Goodwin; Lake Placid: Jim McCulley; Beaver River: Scott Thompson**