

State rail-trail plan should be supported

March 15, 2016, as submitted to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise

To the editor:

It's too bad that the small group of railroad supporters won't be happy with the compromise for the Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor that the Department of Transportation, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the governor's office had unanimously agreed would be the best compromise for this mostly unused travel corridor.

Tupper Lake is at least 85 percent pro-trail all the way to Remsen from Lake Placid, but we, along with a large number of Adirondack Recreational Trail Advocates members, have agreed to the compromise because it gives both sides a chance to operate on this corridor. However, there are a few who are greedy and self-serving when it comes to this corridor and what they think is best for all the people.

I can tell you from personal experience that over 90 percent of Tupper Lake businesses want option No. 7 that was approved by the Adirondack Park Agency because I spoke with most of them and they happily signed a petition to attest that.

There are so many businesses struggling year round because of the lack of tourists patronizing their establishments, and this would definitely be a solution to draw tourists here in the Tri-Lakes.

Times have changed drastically in the past 10 to 20 years, and almost all the factories have closed or relocated to another state! So now is the time to embrace outdoor recreation as the new industry.

I am also upset with all the false info and fear mongering being done by some of the rail supporters as to the future of the New York state-owned travel corridor that is protected by the State Land Master Plan under the travel corridor inventory.

My worst fear is that by stalling this option No. 7 to move forward while the state is actually going to spend money on rail restoration and trail construction, we are all going to lose if another catastrophe happens or a political change in Albany takes place.

Please don't let other people's distorted opinions and false information be your decision maker! PLEASE READ THE NEW, REVISED UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THIS TRAVEL CORRIDOR and make your own educated decision on the biggest economic development project to come to our area in decades.

Thank you,

Peter Edwards, Tupper Lake