

Colby Miles
Keene, NH
LD 676

Removal of the former Maine Central Railroad Mountain Division in its entirety would be extremely short sighted and detrimental to any future potential use of the Mountain Division for either freight or passenger rail traffic. Looking at the Vermont Rail System's current and, so far, encouraging efforts to revive rail traffic over the portion of the Mountain Division between St. Johnsbury, Vermont and Whitefield, New Hampshire.

As a previous employee of Vermont Rail System I can attest to the commitment and dedication of Vermont Rail System to revive dormant and under used rail lines to bring prosperity to local communities through both their freight services and passenger operations. Their freight services would reduce long haul and short haul trucking through western Maine. The passenger operations would be able to drastically reduce seasonal tourist vehicle traffic in providing an alternative means of accessing western Maine's scenic lakes region as well as reducing vehicle emissions in the region during tourist season.

Also having a second rail line to connect Maine's industry to the rest of the national rail network would be immensely beneficial to the state's economy. In providing Maine based shippers and customers another option to bring in or ship out goods to and from the state of Maine.

In the short term a rail WITH trail option would be best in preserving the rail line with the tracks in place and lay a recreational trail for ATV, Snowmobile, hiking, ect use over the tracks. When the time comes for the Mountain Division to be revived for rail traffic the train can be relocated next to the tracks for continued use.

Thank you for your time,
Colby Miles
Lewiston, Maine native
MBTA locomotive engineer