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I oppose the conversion of this rail line to the "rails to trails" use. Rail transportation is the most cost efficient and least polluting transportation option available. This line should be improved and used, not converted to recreational use.

I do not believe that residents of a community the line passes through should pay anything to build or maintain "rails to trails" use because it is counter to my point in paragraph one and an unnecessary use of tax dollars.

Many residents have their driveways cross the rail line; some are a distance from the public road. This will open them to unwanted visitors and potential liability exposure as they drive to their house. Improper disposal of waste, inability to hunt on your own property if it adjoins the rail line, and increased crime are all consequences that have occurred in other places that "rail to trails" has been put in place.

In some places along the rail lines, the tracks are less than 100 feet from the rear of homes. This was not an issue for homeowners when a few trains a day went by but a constant stream of people walking by the rear of the home is disturbing. These residents would need fences built and vegetation planted, not at their expense, for their privacy and safety.

There are no parking areas for access to the trails so private property will be abused for this purpose as this is another cost burden. Along the rail line in Cumberland, there is no fence along the property that separates it from US Route 1. Dog walkers will probably have their dogs run onto Rt. 1 and this will be a danger to automobile drivers.

I urge a rejection of this use and a focus on how to make the track active for commercial and passenger use.

Thank you.