



Catskill Mountain Railroad Company, Inc.
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April 6, 2018

Vincent Sapienza
Commissioner, NYCDEP
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11373

RE: Ashokan Reservoir Reconstruction Project

Dear Commissioner Sapienza,

As you know the Catskill Mountain Railroad is the operator of the Ulster & Delaware Railroad corridor between the Ashokan Reservoir and Kingston, New York.

The Catskill Mountain Railroad is studying the restoration of freight service to the line through the reconnection of its track with CSX in Kingston and the introduction of transload services in the Kingston area. We are also in the process of restoring the railroad track in the corridor up closer to the Ashokan Reservoir area.

The CMRR understands that the NYCDEP is planning a \$750 million project to reconstruct the Ashokan Reservoir in the next few years which will include the Woodstock and Glenford Dikes. The CMRR would like to evaluate the economics of giving the NYCDEP the option of shipping both inbound construction materials and outbound debris by rail instead of by truck. As you know, shipping by rail is generally more economic for heavy construction materials and debris than by truck, and also represents a more environmentally sound method of transportation. In addition to reducing transportation costs by shipping by rail, the NYCDEP can also avoid the negative press that will be associated with the large amount of truck traffic on the Route 28 corridor coming from up from Kingston, as well as any other state and local highways.

As you may know the original Ulster & Delaware Railroad was instrumental in the original construction of the Ashokan Reservoir and its dikes over 100 years ago, and can again be useful for their reconstruction.

In order to evaluate this opportunity accurately, we would like to discuss what type and volume of construction materials you anticipate for this project as well as the time frame that you would expect the construction materials to be delivered. Similarly, we would like to ask the types and volume of materials you will need to have removed from the locations, and your requirements for finding a suitable location for disposal. As you are aware, access to the national railway network increases the NYCDEP's options tremendously for the purchase of construction materials and disposal of debris and the CMRR can help in those areas.

The CMRR can also work the NYCDEP to construct a loading and unloading area so that all materials can be loaded and unloaded on NYCDEP land directly.

Additionally, the CMRR is a locally owned business that will employ many people in Ulster County to provide this service to the NYCDEP.

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter and are happy to schedule a meeting at your convenience to discuss the above matters in more detail. I can be reached at (347) 229-6977 and by email at planning@catskillmtrailroad.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E.E. Hunt". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ernest E. Hunt
President
Catskill Mountain Railroad

cc: Adam Bosch