



Catskill Mountain Railroad Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 1415
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(845) 688-7400
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===== PRESS RELEASE=====

Catskill Mountain Railroad Announces Potential Freight Customer

Kingston, NY -- March 19, 2018 - The Catskill Mountain Railroad has received a Letter of Intent from a potential freight customer, Williams Lumber and Home Centers. Williams Lumber and Home Centers has asked to ship lumber products by rail for distribution to their retail stores in Ulster, Greene Counties and Dutchess Counties (see attached).

Lumber destined for Williams Lumber and Home Centers would arrive by rail via the CMRR and be unloaded in the Kingston area for distribution by truck to Williams' retail locations. Lumber shipment by rail will lower William's transportation costs. Williams' President Don S. Williams states:

"We have for some time been looking for a way to ship by rail as an economic alternative to the high cost of shipping by truck. We look forward to working with you on this important way to make our business more competitive in the Mid-Hudson Valley area. "

The restoration of freight operations on the Catskill Mountain Branch was pursued by the Ulster County in the mid-1980's when it spent \$250,000 to reconnect the line to Conrail and rebuild the line for freight service, which operated between 1987 and 1991. This proposal enables Ulster County to build on that investment and fulfill the long-sought goal to bring low-cost freight transport back to Ulster County. The tracks are still in place except for the switch to CSX. The CMRR is working with CSX to have the switch reinstalled.

If the freight business can be restarted with the Williams Lumber contract, the CMRR will pursue several other potential freight customers both on and off the permit area. This will include the NYCDEP which will be requiring thousands of tons of material in the next few years for the rebuilding of the Glenford and Woodstock Dikes. Keeping this material on the railroad will keep it off Route 28 and other highways in Ulster County.

The CMRR has asked the County for its support in bringing back rail freight options for Ulster County. The CMRR believes that reconnecting its current permit area with the CSX mainline will not preclude the construction of the Midtown Trail and Linear Park. With some additional redesign both rail and trail can be accommodated in this segment. The only real constraints are the overpasses at Elmendorf Street and Albany Avenue, which we believe can be eventually widened to accommodate rail and trail. Until then a signaling system similar to a crosswalk and stoplight can be used to allow joint rail and trail use at these two bottlenecks.

The CMRR looks forward to working with the County on this exciting new economic development opportunity. We believe that the addition of the freight business, in addition to our existing passenger business and future side-by side trail will make this part of the corridor a model for other counties across the state.

For further information please contact CMRR President Ernie Hunt at (347) 229-6977 or at freight@catskillmtrailroad.com.

Please also see:

<http://www.catskillmountainrailroad.com/about/freight/>



WILLIAMS Lumber & Home Centers

"The name you know and the name you trust"



March 9, 2018

Mr. Ernest Hunt – President
Catskill Mountain Railroad
P.O. Box 1415
Kingston, NY 12401

RE: Letter of Intent for Freight Railroad Service, Kingston, NY

Dear Mr. Hunt,

As per my recent conversation with Tom Whyte, I am writing this letter to serve as our letter of intent to ship by rail via the Catskill Mountain Railroad in Kingston, New York. Williams Lumber and Home Centers anticipates the need of 75 to 100 carloads of lumber per year, to be unloaded at a mutually acceptable location on your railroad in the vicinity of Kingston, New York. The lumber will be distributed to our retail locations in Ulster, Greene and Dutchess Counties.

We understand that you need approval from your landlord, Ulster County, to initiate the process of resuming freight deliveries on the Catskill Mountain Railroad. Please feel free to put them in touch with me directly if they have any questions at (845) 876-7011, Ext, 1007.

We have for some time been looking for a way to ship by rail as an economic alternative to the high cost of shipping by truck. We look forward to working with you on this important way to make our business more competitive in the Mid-Hudson Valley area.

We also believe that the resumption of freight operations on the Catskill Mountain Railroad will help encourage economic development in Ulster County by giving other local businesses access to the lower transportation costs of shipping by rail.

We look forward to working with you to make this happen.

Sincerely,

Don S. Williams
President

RHINEBECK	PLEASANT VALLEY	GREENPORT	HOPEWELL	TANNERSVILLE	RED HOOK	HIGH FALLS	HYDE PARK
6760 Route 9 Rhinebeck, NY 12572 845-876-4054	2424 Route 44 Pleasant Valley, NY 12569 845-266-3435	3679 Route 9 Hudson, NY 12534 518-851-3641	908 Route 82 Hopewell Jct., NY 12533 845-221-2751	34 Bloomer Road Tannersville, NY 12485 518-589-5200	9-11 East Market St. Red Hook, NY 12571 845-758-5615	317 Kyserike Road High Falls, NY 12440 845-687-7676	4246 Albany Post Rd. Hyde Park, NY 12538 845-698-1004