



November 16, 2022

Amit Bose, Acting Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

I represent Gorham Acquisition, dba White Mountain Paper Company, located in Gorham, New Hampshire (Coos County). We are an operating paper mill with more than a century of history of making paper, and currently produce tissue products. We currently employ approximately 75 people, with the hope of growing and expanding into different market sectors, allowing for the creation of additional employment opportunities.

On behalf of our company, I would like to express our strong support for the Vermont Agency of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant application, "Tri-State Regional Rail Upgrade Project."

The St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad (SLR) is partnering with the states of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine on this grant project. The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTRANS) is the lead applicant for the application. Matching funds are being provided by the states of ME and NH, as well as the SLR to make the project a true public-private partnership. This is the final work needed to complete the three-state modern heavy haul rail freight corridor and provide 286,000 lb. railcar weight capacity.

The SLR mainline will receive new welded rail, ties, and grade crossing repairs. This project will continue efforts by the SLR and the three states over many years to upgrade the SLR main line into a state of good repair, enhance safety, and allow fully loaded modern rail car shipments, which will support the current and future growth needs of our business.

White Mountain Paper Company is very supportive of this grant application and is hopeful that if awarded, this grant will also allow for rail expansion to the Mill which would allow SLR to provide reliable and safe shipping service to meet our freight transportation and supply chain needs (as example, this would greatly expand our ability to source pulp).

I ask that you please give the application serious consideration for selection and award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan Behrens", is written over a long, thin horizontal line that spans across the width of the signature area.

Evan Behrens  
Managing Member

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