



Town of Germantown

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Return Receipt Requested

March 21, 2018

Matthew P. Margaglio
Coastal Resource Specialist 1
New York State Department of State
Office of Planning, Development & Community Infrastructure
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12231-001

Re: Public Notice - F-2018-0060

Dear Mr. Margaglio:

This letter is written to request the 15-day public comment period be suspended and information meetings be held in each effected community regarding the proposal by Amtrak to install approximately 8600 feet of fencing and gates in various locations between Milepost 141 and Milepost 75 and near Milepost 163.96.

As Town Supervisors, we are concerned about this project due to its impact on the quality of life in our communities, and the ability of our first responders to perform water rescue. It must be noted that the proposal lacks sufficient detail that addresses the questions our stakeholders have.

We also wish to acknowledge the support of Assemblywoman Didi Barrett, whose office will submit a letter requesting a suspension of the 15-day public comment period and that information meetings be held in each effected community.

A substantial number of our stakeholders have expressed their dismay and opposition to Amtrak's proposal to install gates and fences along the railroad right-of way in Germantown, Stockport and Stuyvesant in Columbia County, and in Rhinebeck (Rhinecliff) and Tivoli in Dutchess County.

The Hudson River has been an integral part of our communities for hundreds of years, long before railroad trains and tracks were invented. The River is used regularly for a variety of recreational activities, including boating, fishing and swimming to name a few. Families enjoy picnics and barbeques next to the River in the parks that dot the western edge of our Towns.

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The installation of fences and gates will have an immediate negative impact on our citizens by preventing and/or limiting their access to the River.

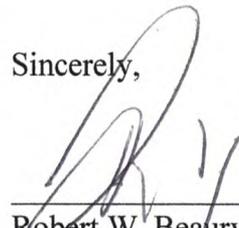
In addition, people will still use the River and sometimes they will need help. Our first responders are the professionals that will rush to the scene when needed. How much valuable time will be lost because of fencing and gates?

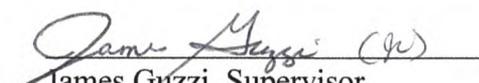
Moreover, the River is a source of pride. We conduct "River Sweep" annually, with dozens of volunteers cleaning up garbage that makes its way to the shore line in a couple of ways, including washing up on our waterfront. The installation of fences and gates is counter-productive to the spirit of community involvement, in that it gives our citizens the strong impression that access to the River can be prohibited at any time.

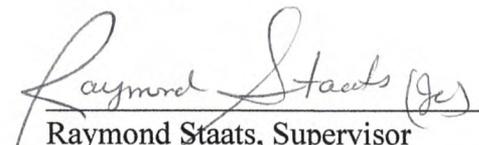
It should also be noted that Amtrak's proposal is inadequate because it doesn't specify why these MP's were chosen, the type of fencing or gates. Will the gates be locked? If so, who is the keeper of the key?

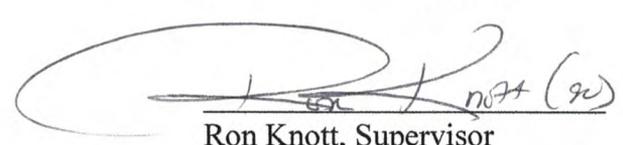
For the foregoing reasons, we again request the 15-day public comment period be suspended and information meetings be held in each effected community regarding the proposal by Amtrak. Only then can the public be educated properly and have a voice in the planning of a project that will have a direct impact on them.

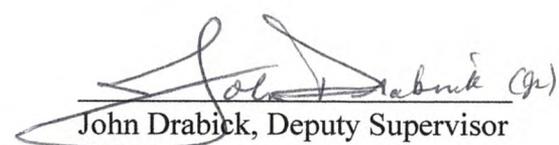
Sincerely,



Robert W. Beury, Supervisor
Town of Germantown

James Guzzi, Supervisor
Town of Livingston

Raymond Staats, Supervisor
Town of Clermont

Ron Knott, Supervisor
Town of Stuyvesant

John Drabick, Deputy Supervisor
Town of Stockport