

25 AUGUST 2022

MWC
 MASTER PLAN COMMENTS
 172 PEMBROKE RD
 CONCORD, NH 03101

RECEIVED

AUG 26 2022

T.T.L.

Dear Sir:

I'm not sure you are concerned and are responsible for the projected COG RAILROAD destruction of fragile alpine land to put up building for overnight guests. However, I am writing you to express my concerns. Please keep this in your file.

I first climbed Mount Washington 75 years ago, just after I graduated from high school, hitch-hiking from New Jersey. I have since climbed Mt Washington numerous times, summer and winter, and greatly appreciate the unique alpine environment.

Therefore, I was appalled to read that the Cog R.R. ^{WANTED BUILD} to build a major establishment of modules for overnight guests on their land at the summit.

We hikers are asked to stay on trails, especially above timberland, to avoid destroying the local environment, especially the fragile alpine plants. And now the proposed project would destroy hundreds of square feet of the land. I just don't understand how any responsible person could even propose or want or approve such a project. I would call them mental midgets. That project, indeed, would be VERY AMERICAN at its worst, and the project owners truly Ugly Americans.

The same owners recently had another ill-advised possible project on the west side of the mountain, a hotel half-way up. Are the owners of the Cog RR really so desperate for money that they are willing to do irreparable damage to the fragile alpine environment?

One might say that the building of the present Adnan Adams summit structure destroyed the top alpine lands. That is not actually true. The fragile lands at the top had been destroyed over a hundred years ago when both were built there.

The present owners say the additional overnight visitors will do little or no damage to the area. That is hard to believe. Would they be told to stay on trails or be monitored?

The COC RR was bragging about using diesel instead of coal to run their engine to reduce air pollution due to the coal. I congratulate them on that. However, at least the air pollution due to burning coal was rapidly ~~blown away~~ ^{BLOWN AWAY}. These environmental damage due to building the proposed project would be there for generation. It took thousands of years to attain the mostly stable environment that is there today.

Again, I believe the proposed project of the COC RR to build major overnight lodgings on top of Mount Washington to be a horrible, forever destroying a fragile alpine environment.

A friend of mine, Nancy Slack, wrote a small book about plants on the alpine areas of the Northeast, including MT Washington and the Presidential. With all the work she did, trying to teach people to respect these fragile areas, I bet she would be angry and against the proposed COC RR project.

I ask that every possible law be used to stop this ill-advised project. STOP the rape of Mount Washington.

Yours truly,
Richard M. Chrenker.

P.S. If anyone who reads this knows of someone who shares my concern about the the COC RR summit housing project, could you please send them a copy of this letter, Thanks.