

I am deeply concerned about the Cheese Country Trail and the WSOR proposed railroad track that will occupy at least 4.5 miles of that trail, and the devastation of tourism dollars that will occur in Green County and the State of WI! Not only will the Southern region of WI lose millions of dollars, I wonder how many businesses and employees will be affected by this loss of revenue – how many jobs lost?

I am not against progress, but, you need to prove to the residents of the Southern region and the rest of the State of WI. that the rail will bring in more monies and jobs than the multi use trail, then we could support the rails. But, the rail was abandoned and the tracks removed, because the rail was not profitable and they obviously thought that it would never be profitable again!

Because of this multi use trail, we enjoy tourism from other States like: Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania, to name a few, and many other States. These tourists bring in much needed money to the Southern region of WI, how can the rail bring in this many tourists with money to spend in this area, benefitting the State of WI?

Wisconsin needs money to repair its roads that are in dangerously poor condition! These roads are so patched, making them very rough and many of them hold water contributing to hydroplaning of vehicles. If this money went to repair our roads and make them more safe, the many residents of WI would all benefit, where the rail will only benefit a few – actually who will benefit from this rail system? Which begs an answer to the next question; how much road tax does the railroad pay, or do they just get to enjoy the money from the DOT, paid by the hard working people of the USA?

This year property taxes rose significantly in Green County, and, losing a portion of the Cheese Country Trail, will be detrimental to the residents in the Southern region of WI and only add to the property taxes, and, how much more do you think property owners can afford – really?

Building a trail next to the rails would probably be impossible, not only would it be extremely expensive, but, probably not feasible, as wetland issues would be almost impossible to deal with, plus there are so many bridges to build! Please look closely at this rail project, before committing millions of dollars to something that will not bring money or tourism into WI and then just turn out to have the rails abandoned again - a very expensive abandonment! The tax payers and businesses of WI deserve better than blowing our hard earned money (stimulus or DOT) on a bad idea!