

From: Hustus, Trevor
Sent: Thu, 13 Mar 2025 19:55:20 +0000
To: Matesic, Hannah (OST)
Subject: Re: Meeting referral - Conway Scenic Railroad
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.png, image004.png, image005.png, image006.png

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You are the best, thank you much!
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 13, 2025, at 3:05 PM, Matesic, Hannah (OST) <hannah.matesic@dot.gov> wrote:

Hey buddy! Let me talk to our folks and see what we can get on the books.

Thanks!
Hannah

From: Hustus, Trevor <Trevor.Hustus@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 2:47 PM
To: Matesic, Hannah (OST) <hannah.matesic@dot.gov>
Subject: Meeting referral - Conway Scenic Railroad

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Hi Hannah,

(b)(6) If you'll indulge me, I'm reaching out on behalf of some friends in the rail/tourism industry from Maine. They will be visiting Washington March 24-26 and were looking to set up a meeting with folks at the Federal Rail Administration (ideally the Acting Administrator or even Secretary Duffy, which I explained was probably not going to happen).

People who would join the meeting:

- David Swirk, Owner of Conway Scenic Railroad, Conway, NH
- Rhonda Swirk, Co-Owner Conway Scenic Railroad

- Jason Briggs, Conway Scenic Railroad and VIP Motor Coach, Portland, ME
- Jack Duffin, Conway Scenic Railroad
- Bruce Sleeper, Train Riders Northeast
- Peter Cole, Maine Rail Group
- Patty Barber, Advisor

Conway Scenic Railroad is one of the largest rail operators in New Hampshire, and the largest tourist attraction north of the Seacoast area. Mr. Swirk purchased the company within the past couple of years and is looking at rapidly expanding rail service (for both his company and freight) into western and southern Maine. For context, the Swirks are looking to rehabilitate a 50-mile section of rail from Conway, NH, to Portland, ME. The Maine State Legislature voted before Swirk purchased the company to allow ME DOT to tear up the track to install a hiking and biking trail. Swirk has been lobbying heavily for the Legislature to keep the rail in place, which he has offered to rehabilitate at cost, so he can bring passengers from cruise ships in Portland up into the White Mountains. There are several major businesses in the area that support this effort, as it will allow them to transfer goods directly by rail to the Port of Portland.

The goal for a meeting with FRA or Sec. Duffy is to discuss the state of rail service in northern New England, and how FRA and private business can work together to expand freight and tourism in the region. I told them I'd forward along the request, and I can certainly vouch that the Swirks and Jason are friendlies. If someone could take some time to meet with them while they're in town, I'd appreciate it, but certainly understand things are busy. They are available all day on the 24th and after 1pm on the 26th.

Thank you so much!!

Trevor

Regards,

Trevor J. Hustus
Senior Legislative Assistant
 Representative Lisa C. McClain
 562 Cannon HOB | O: (b)(6)

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