

September XX, 2023

Mr. Daryl Duquette
Director General
Ottawa Valley Railway/Genesee & Wyoming Canada
445 Oak Street East
North Bay, ON P1B 1A3

Dear Mr. Duquette

I have attached a copy of our recent Resolution of Council supporting the creation of a regional steam powered tourist train that would operate on your right of way. While in the early stages, this tourist train would have a significant potential economic impact on our region estimated to be \$8-9 million annually.

We are excited to support this initiative for a number of reasons. First, our region is not blessed with many economic development opportunities of this potential magnitude. As you know, our region and Northern Ontario in general are lagging the rest of the province in economic development, job creation and retaining our youth.

Secondly, it would create a working heritage rail attraction that would be unique to this region and Canada but at the same time fit with our railway history and culture. East Ferris grew beside the Canadian Pacific Railway as it started working its way west as Canada's transcontinental railway and where you operate today.

In closing, we need this initiative to succeed and we need the Ottawa Valley Railway to be part of that success by providing long term track access for this tourist train on fair commercial terms. It is vital to the economic development of our region.

Sincerely,

Pauline Rochefort
Mayor East Ferris Township

CC. MPP Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
MP Anthony Rota, Speaker of the House of Commons
Mayor Peter Chirico, City of North Bay
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