

Letter to the Editor Re: Keep railways viable

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Although I agree with the City of Côte St. Luc on important issues such as the conservation of Meadowbrook, I respectfully disagree on the issue of railways and property taxes (re: 'Back to 100 percent', March 12). Environmentally and energy-wise, railways are the way to go. They need improvement in infrastructure, safety and land use. They should also be electrified. But railways need a level playing field with nationally and publicly supported and financed roads and highways. The Cavendish extension should come out of the roads and grade separation envelope, not at the expense of the railways. Railways are a public service and are common carriers that have special status for interprovincial and international commerce. The tax rebate program must stay. There is no guarantee that the railways will be as profitable as they are now. The province of Quebec should take responsibility for this issue and compensate the municipalities for their loss in revenue.

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