

Experts Say B&M Should Go

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would pay off the purchase price

However, Bixler said, "The pompous posing of threats by the B&M trustees has been enough to back off the state of New Hampshire."

The B&M has not only demanded extravagant compensation for its lines, he said, but has attached a condition to any purchase that any future operators of the lines could not be permitted to compete with the B&M.

Jennings said an efficient short-line operator could make money on the Monadnock lines, even though the B&M has found them unprofitable.

Short-line operators have lower operating costs and are tied to the communities they serve, he said, making it more important for them to attract new rail-using industries and to give better service to their customers.

Unless somebody acts quickly to push the B&M out of Cheshire County and turn the rail lines over to a short-line business, Bixler said, "somebody will put a supermarket right in the middle of the railroad, and once you cut the railroad you can't put it back together."

"It would be a tragedy," he said, "to lose this resource."