

My anxiety that

Mr. Williams should be continued as a Director must be my apology for troubling you with this long letter. The intimate acquaintance with matters connected with the construction of Rail Roads and practical habits make him an exceedingly useful member of our board, and I feel assured that the loss of his services to the board would be seriously felt. There is no mode of retaining him as a Director unless your Excellency would consent to nominate one of the Directors elected by the Stockholders. Will this occur in addition to the name of Elias Ellicott Esq. already mentioned to you. I beg leave to suggest John Johnson Esq.

With very great respect I have the honor to be
 Your Obedt. Servt.
 Somerville Pitkin

May 2^d 1839.

Sir,

I have carefully considered your letter of the 2^d April as well as various communications from others in relation to your conduct as Lumber Inspector.

Before the appointments were made I was urged in the strongest manner to appoint three or four of the old inspectors because it was supposed that the public interest would suffer from a general removal. I should have been willing to nominate some of those who were recommended for continuation. If I had not been induced to believe that nearly the whole business would have been thrown into their hands. It was to prevent such preference and partiality that I was reluctantly compelled to make a general change.

I understand that you and two or three others of the present Inspectors have entered into partnerships with some of those who were not reappointed and by that means have engrossed the principal part of the business while the rest of the Inspectors are left without employment. There could have been no impropriety in procuring assistance until you acquired sufficient knowledge of the business to make the inspections yourself. Such permanent contract with another person could only be accounted for upon the supposition that you had no expectation of becoming competent yourself or that you entered into partnership with a person of opposite politics for the purpose of securing their custom and patronage and gaining an advantage over the other Lumber Inspectors. It must be apparent to you that if either supposition be correct it would have