



State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3011

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen:

The multiple train derailments at Penn Station New York (PSNY) and the severe service disruption they continue to cause beleaguered commuters is inexcusable. Amtrak has an obligation to properly maintain the rail infrastructure comprising the Northeast Corridor (NEC) in a state-of-good-repair, including tracks and assets at PSNY, and it has manifestly failed to do so, notwithstanding the substantial sums provided by Congress and NJ TRANSIT for that very purpose. Indeed, earlier this morning, Amtrak admitted that both recent derailments at PSNY were caused by faulty tracks.

In spite of increased financial support from NJ TRANSIT in accordance with the requirements of the Passenger Rail Improvement Act of 2008, Amtrak remains unable to responsibly maintain critical infrastructure on the NEC in a state-of-good-repair. NJ TRANSIT passengers are bearing the brunt of Amtrak's neglect of the NEC and disregard for its many users.

Accordingly, in your capacity as Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, I call upon you to use all of the oversight powers available to you to hold Amtrak fully accountable for its repeated failures to properly expend funds to keep commuters safe and maintain an efficient mass transportation system for the NEC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Christie".

Chris Christie
Governor