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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 14, 2015

Ms. Veronique Hakim
Executive Director
New Jersey Transit
One Penn Plaza East
Newark, NJ 07105

Dear Executive Director Hakim:

Ronnie

I am writing to request an update from New Jersey Transit on the implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC) systems on its fleet of passenger railroad trains. In the wake of the tragic accident in Philadelphia earlier this week on the Northeast Corridor, it is important to understand the status of New Jersey Transit's plans.

As you know, following several high-profile train incidents, Congress passed the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-432), which mandated PTC on passenger and freight railroads by December 31, 2015. The National Transportation Safety Board lists implementation of PTC in 2015 on the most wanted list of transportation safety improvements. We have learned that Amtrak was in the process of completing installation of its Advanced Civil Speed Enforcement System (ACES) along the section of the Northeast Corridor in Philadelphia to comply with the PTC mandate. NTSB tells us that this technology could have prevented this deadly incident.

New Jersey Transit has dedicated a great deal of time and resources to install technologies to ensure the safety of its system, including automatic train control and civil speed enforcement. Positive Train Control is another tool in the safety arsenal, and I understand that New Jersey Transit has allocated hundreds of millions of dollars for this purpose. I am requesting that New Jersey Transit provide my office with background on which system is being installed and on which specific lines, the status of that installation, the deadline for completion, the costs spent on PTC activity to date, expected costs in the future, and any obstacles New Jersey Transit faces in its implementation, including funding and spectrum issues. As always, my office stands ready to assist in your efforts to meet this federal mandate.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Bill Pascrell

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

*Thanks for considering
Continue the good job,
Bill P*