

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 6, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Denham  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and  
Hazardous Materials  
B-376 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Corrine Brown  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and  
Hazardous Materials  
2111 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Shuster and Denham and Ranking Members Rahall and Brown:

We write out of grave concern for public safety, given the deadly derailment on the Metro-North Railroad's Hudson Line on December 1<sup>st</sup>. This shocking incident is made all the more tragic by the fact that it was likely preventable. When combined with this year's other rail safety incidents, it creates the perception of an unacceptably dangerous status quo. We therefore request that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, or the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hold a hearing focused specifically on rail safety as soon as possible.

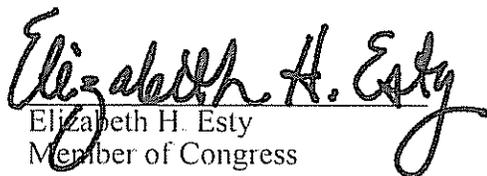
As you know, the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-432, Division A) expired on October 1, 2013, leaving our nation's rail safety program in need of reauthorization. In light of recent accidents, it's important that we take time to evaluate the program and consider whether existing safety measures should be strengthened. This is a dire matter to our constituents. According to the Federal Railroad Administration, the following Metro-North accidents in our states of Connecticut and New York have caused 5 deaths and approximately 129 injuries this year alone:

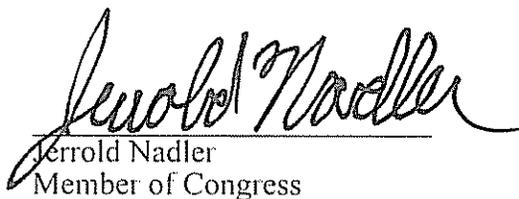
- May 17<sup>th</sup> passenger train derailment and train-to-train collision in Bridgeport, CT;
- May 28<sup>th</sup> fatal roadway worker accident in West Haven, CT;
- July 18<sup>th</sup> CSX derailment at Spuyten Duyvil, Bronx, New York;
- December 1<sup>st</sup> derailment at Spuyten Duyvil, Bronx, New York.

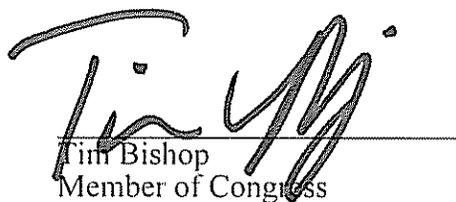
These concerns extend far beyond Metro-North or even passenger rail, as the deadly tank car explosion in Lac-Megantic, Quebec, made clear in July. Of the Subcommittee's seven hearings held this session, none have focused primarily on rail safety. Out of respect for rail employees

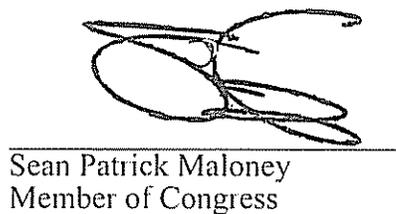
and passengers everywhere, especially those harmed last Sunday, we urgently request that the Committee or Subcommittee hold a hearing to investigate what steps can be taken to prevent such tragedies from happening again.

Sincerely,

  
Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress

  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

  
Tim Bishop  
Member of Congress

  
Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress