

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 2, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader McCarthy, Chairman Rogers, and Chairman Diaz-Balart:

The derailment of Amtrak train #188 in Philadelphia on May 12 was a terrible tragedy, for the eight people who lost their lives, the hundreds injured, and untold numbers who have been affected by the incident. The accident is made all the more senseless because it was entirely preventable.

While the investigation is ongoing, it is clear even now that the train derailment could have been avoided if Positive Train Control (PTC) technologies were operable in the area where the accident occurred. National Transportation Safety Board Member Robert Sumwalt has said that PTC “would prevent the very type of accident that we’re dealing with here.” Amtrak President Joseph Boardman stated definitively, “had [PTC] been installed, it would have prevented this accident.”

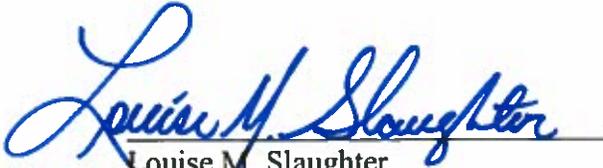
The Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 required that PTC systems be installed on the Northeast Corridor. Unfortunately, Congress has consistently failed to provide Amtrak with adequate funds to balance the PTC mandate with its many other capital needs.

In March, a number of Members of Congress wrote to the House Appropriations Committee Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Subcommittee supporting the president’s request for passenger rail funding. The request included \$475 million within the Current Passenger Rail Service Program for PTC on Amtrak and \$825 million within the Rail Service Improvement Program to assist commuter railroads with PTC implementation. Inexplicably, the THUD bill passed by the Appropriations Committee on May 13 – the day after the Philadelphia accident – included no funds for PTC. In fact, the Committee rejected amendments that would have provided full funding for PTC. As the THUD bill moves toward

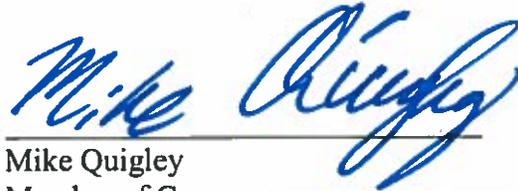
floor consideration, we once again request that you work to include the requested funding for PTC.

Congress could have prevented the derailment of Amtrak train #188. We should now act to prevent future accidents, additional loss of life, and economic damage by providing adequate funds for PTC implementation.

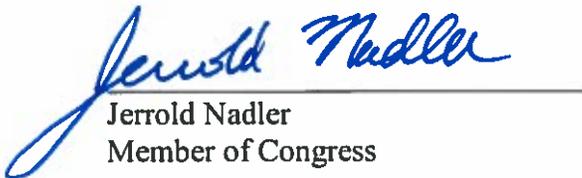
Sincerely,



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



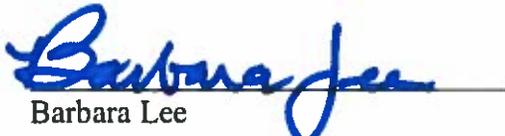
Doris O. Matsui
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Member of Congress


Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress


Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
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Grace Meng
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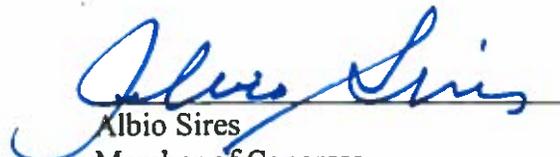

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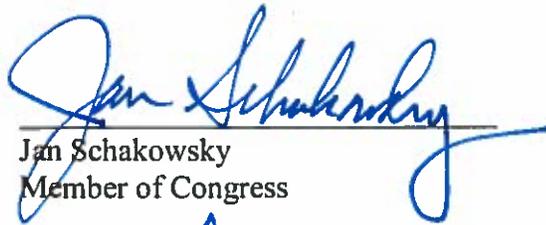
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Debbie Dingell
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Jan Schakowsky
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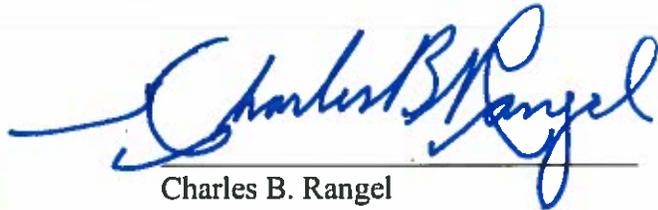
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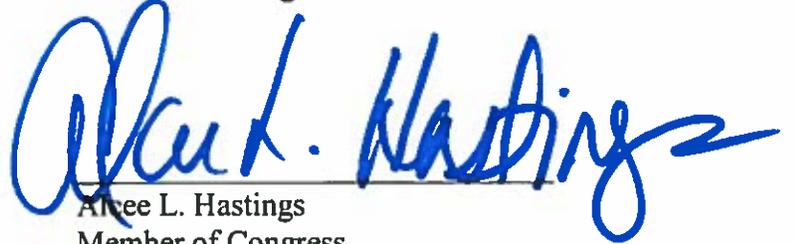
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Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth
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