



LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
25TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

September 12, 2014

Joseph C. Szabo  
Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: New York State Department of Transportation grant applications:  
Hudson Line Positive Train Control Preliminary Engineering  
Hudson Line Positive Train Control Phase 1 Construction, Fiber Optic Backbone

Dear Administrator Szabo:

I write to voice my strong support for New York State's grant applications submitted in response to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Notice of Funding Availability for Intercity Passenger Rail Grade Crossing Improvements, Positive Train Control (PTC), and Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plan Grant Funds.

These two projects will contribute greatly to the development and construction of PTC for the Hudson Line between Poughkeepsie and Hoffmans, New York. They will be critical steps in the continuous improvement to the Hudson Line made possible by FRA's support and New York State's collaboration with Amtrak and CSX Transportation, Inc.

NYSDOT's proposal to develop a safe, efficient, and cost effective way to transition between Amtrak's PTC system on the Hudson Line and CSX's system in its adjacent territories will support the safety and efficiency of freight and passenger rail travel over the Hudson Line and the Empire Corridor that stretches from Buffalo through Rochester to Albany/Rensselaer and on to New York City. Additionally, NYSDOT's proposal to add a fiber optic backbone to the signal system between Rensselaer and Schenectady makes good fiscal sense. Ongoing FRA/New York State-funded projects are adding the fiber optic backbone to the rest of the Hudson Line and NYSDOT will add this new work to ongoing contracts. That means the work is shovel ready and will never be as cost effective as right now.

I am grateful for FRA's support of passenger rail in New York State. These two projects would build on NYSDOT's success and are great candidates for FRA funding, and I enthusiastically support them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Louise M. Slaughter".

Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress