

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 20, 2015

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairman
THUD Appropriations Subcommittee
Dirksen SOB 128
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
THUD Appropriations Subcommittee
Dirksen SOB 142
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

As you continue work on the FY16 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide increased and expedited funding for rail safety, especially Positive Train Control (PTC) technology.

On Tuesday, May 12th, an Amtrak train traveling from Washington, D.C. to New York derailed outside Philadelphia. Tragically, eight lives were lost and more than 200 people were injured. While the investigation into that accident is still ongoing, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) reported that the derailment could have been prevented had PTC been operational on that segment of track. The NTSB has advocated for PTC for more than four decades, citing its life-saving potential. PTC would provide millions of dollars in annual safety benefits and prevent needless fatalities.

Increased funding for PTC is especially critical at a time when commuter agencies grapple with the huge investments needed to install this technology. To date, Congress has only allocated \$50 million specifically for PTC, yet costs on commuter rail systems nationwide are expected to exceed \$2 billion.

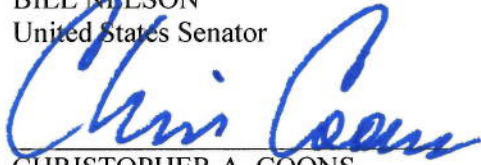
Safety on our nation's railway system has been, and must continue to be, our top priority. Last week's accident is a stark reminder that there have been far too many crashes and derailments, which could have been prevented had Positive Train Control been installed. As we continue to rely more and more on our passenger and freight rail networks, it is imperative that we install Positive Train Control nationwide as soon as possible. Many of us have called for increased funding for PTC previously, and with renewed urgency we reiterate our request in this year's funding bill.

Thank you for the work you have done to fund passenger rail and your prompt attention to this very important matter. We look forward to working with you.

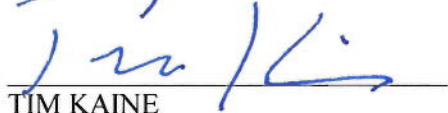
Sincerely,



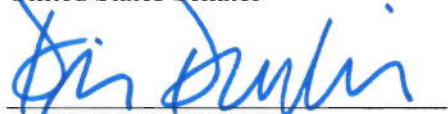
BILL NELSON
United States Senator



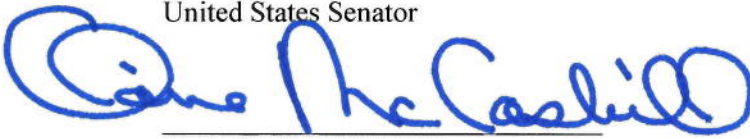
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS
United States Senator



TIM KAINE
United States Senator



RICHARD J. DURBIN
United States Senator



CLAIRE MCCASKILL
United States Senator



CORY A. BOOKER
United States Senator



CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator



DEBBIE STABENOW
United States Senator



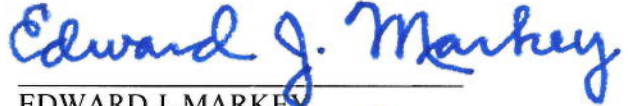
TOM CARPER
United States Senator



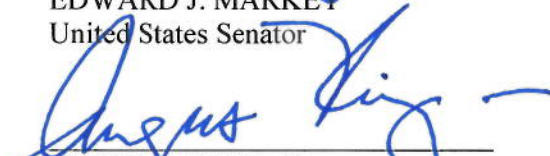
ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
United States Senator



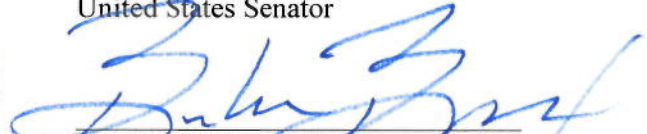
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



EDWARD J. MARKEY
United States Senator



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator



BARBARA BOXER
United States Senator



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



GARY C. PETERS
United States Senator



KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
United States Senator



BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
United States Senator

Mark R Warner

MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator

Chris Murphy

CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse

SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar

AMY KLOBUCHAR
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator