





December 4, 2013

Michael P. Melaniphy, President American Public Transportation Association 1666 K Street, 11th Floor Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Melaniphy:

We are writing to urge that the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) position on Positive Train Control (PTC) be placed on the agenda for the Legislative Committee meeting slated to be held tomorrow in Washington, DC. It is our common position, given the recent Metro-North accident, that this critical safety issue be discussed by the full membership of the Legislative Committee. We believe APTA's current position on PTC should be revisited before APTA finalizes its position in support of delaying the implementation of PTC systems across the nation.

As we have discussed, over the course of the last year, through exchanges of correspondence and through several phone calls, APTA's annual Legislative Conference considered principles on PTC that would permit the use of alternative technologies to satisfy the PTC federal mandate included in the Rail Safety Improvement Act (RSIA) of 2008. We are strongly opposed to any APTA policy that may serve to weaken the intent of the PTC provisions of the RSIA.

Our position on PTC is clear. We believe that any alternative PTC technology that is considered by the transportation industry should be interoperable with PTC, meet the same safety benefits offered by this critical safety measure and be implemented without delay. Our position on this rail safety matter is closely aligned with the rail safety standards sought by the United States Congress when it adopted the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 that was signed into law by then President George W. Bush on October 16, 2008.

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Mr. Michael Melaniphy

We look forward to a full, fair and frank discussion of PTC-related issues at APTA's Legislative Committee slated for tomorrow. Please feel free to contact us directly with respect to this correspondence on our shared interest in rail safety issues.

Sincerely,

Michael P. DePallo Chief Executive Officer

Southern California Regional Rail Authority

Michael Wordle

Darrell Johnson

Chief Executive Officer

**Orange County Transportation Authority** 

Arthur T. Leahy

Chief Executive Officer

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Cc: APTA Board of Directors