Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 19, 2017

Acting Chairman Robert L. Sumwalt
National Transportation Safety Board
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW
Washington, DC 20594

Dear Chairman Sumwalt:

Last night, a Metro-North train derailed in Rye, NY, when five of the train's 12 cars came off the tracks during rush hour. Thankfully, only minor injuries were reported. We are grateful for the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) rapid response to the scene and ongoing investigation into the causes of the derailment, and urge the NTSB to complete its investigation as soon as possible.

As you are aware, this is just one of the many unnecessary and dangerous train derailments that have occurred in the Lower Hudson Valley in recent years. While yesterday's incident was minor compared with other horrifying accidents in recent years, we cannot afford a next time. It is critical that Positive Train Control (PTC) be expediently implemented. We both supported legislation mandating PTC implementation in 2008. It is disappointing that many of America's passenger rail lines are still not utilizing this lifesaving technology, and we encourage you to do everything in your power to push for its prompt adoption.

We appreciate your attention to this incident and your critical work to improve transportation safety in our region. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for the Board's commitment to the investigation.

Sincerely,

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

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