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<http://langevin.house.gov>

Patrick T. Warren, Executive Director  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Warren,

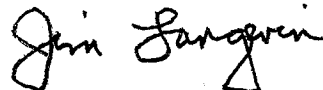
Thank you for the ongoing work of the Federal Railroad Administration in crafting the "NEC Future" plan, the development of a new vision for passenger rail in the Northeast. I write as a longtime proponent of high-speed rail projects, particularly in Rhode Island. NEC Future is needed as our country's passenger rail infrastructure is due for an upgrade, and that is especially true in Amtrak's busy Washington to Boston region. Passenger rail is an economic driver, and I look forward to working with you on this continuing process.

With that said, it has become clear to me that the planned rebuilding of tracks in Washington County, Rhode Island must be reviewed and changed. Under the Tier 1 blueprint, initial maps indicate that streamlined tracks would cut across nature preserves, family farms, and sacred tribal lands. This particular realignment could disturb ecosystems, impinge on property rights, and threaten the natural beauty of the area. Furthermore, this section of the state is currently under a National Park Service study for designation as the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic River.

I have personally heard from hundreds of my constituents who oppose the Tier 1 plan's realignment in Washington County. None of those expressing an opinion have been in favor of the Tier 1 proposal. I recognize that you are currently reviewing your Tier 1 (macro-level) plan and that the FRA is now preparing to study community level impacts in more depth. I am confident that you can work with citizens of affected communities to develop a solution that avoids damaging impacts to Rhode Island, while still meeting the goals of creating a globally competitive, resilient passenger rail service in the Northeast. To that end, please ensure that, as with the Tier 1 process, a public hearing is held in Rhode Island during future comment periods.

Again, thank you for the FRA's ongoing efforts to upgrade our region's passenger rail infrastructure. Please feel free to reach out to me directly at (202) 225-2735 with any further questions.

Sincerely,



Jim Langevin  
Member of Congress