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November 9, 2021

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Ms. Brown:

It has come to my attention that Brookhaven Rail LLC is seeking a waiver from the Surface Transportation Board (STB) regarding local zoning laws, environmental reviews, and public participation laws related to their proposed waste transfer station. This project, like all projects with community impact, must provide Brookhaven residents with the opportunity to provide feedback via the Town's land use planning and decision processes.

It is my opinion that such a solid waste garbage station is beyond the scope of STB's jurisdiction. In addition, and regardless of the jurisdictional issue, this garbage project can easily be permitted locally within the Town of Brookhaven. Indeed, I am aware that the Town of Brookhaven has advised STB that it is ready, willing, and able to process such an application from Winters Bros. Waste Systems. I request that you afford Brookhaven this opportunity instead of removing this local project from the Town's own zoning authority. I urge the STB to carefully consider any waiver requested by Brookhaven Rail LLC to circumvent community engagement and appropriate environmental review.

As someone with a long and detailed record of fighting for Long Island's environment, I have seen the disproportionate impact these waste management projects have on low income and communities of color first-hand. These communities have traditionally lacked opportunity for public participation and are more vulnerable to environmental hazards. President Biden has made environmental justice a central part of his agenda and it is our responsibility to bring that ethic to our own community.

Once again, I stand with the residents of Brookhaven, the New York State NAACP, the Brookhaven NAACP, and New York State Senators in their call to thoughtfully review any proposal by Brookhaven Rail LLC that circumvents community engagement, local zoning laws, or public participation.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas R. Suozzi".

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress