

BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
August 8, 2025
Part of
Public Record

Consolidated Rail Corporation –)

Abandonment Exemption –) AB 167 (Sub-no. 1189X) (and related cases)

In Hudson County, NJ)

NOTICE

Congressman Robert Menendez requests that his letter of August 8, 2025, to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) be included in the public record (filed).

As a courtesy, I am forwarding his request with a certificate of service to facilitate the filing. Certificate of Service: By my signature below, I certify service of this Notice and attached letter upon all parties of record listed on the current STB website service list for this proceeding by email attachment or in lieu of email, by USPS postage pre-paid, first class on this 8th day of August, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Charles H. Montange

Charles H. Montange

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as courtesy for Cong. Menendez

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3008

August 8, 2025

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

Re: AB 167 (Sub-no. 1189X) and related dockets
Appeal of Jersey City's Offer of Financial Assistance

Dear Chairman Fuchs and members of the Surface Transportation Board:

I am writing in regards to the appeal filed by Jersey City for the Offer of Financial Assistance ("OFA") for the rail line known as the Harsimus Branch located in Jersey City, New Jersey. Jersey City has submitted an appeal to address the concerns outlined in the Surface Transportation Board's (the "Board") decision. I have heard from Jersey City that in 2005, Consolidated Rail Corporation ("Conrail") abandoned the Harsimus Branch unlawfully, as the Board itself has acknowledged in the past, by transferring key segments of the right-of-way to a private developer without seeking the abandonment authority the law requires under 49 U.S.C. § 10903. Jersey City's proposal seeks to preserve the abandoned line for passenger rail service, while maintaining compatibility with freight movement to address the transportation needs of a fast-growing area, including the movement of people and reduction of heavy truck traffic. I have had regular and consistent engagement with constituents who fully support this proposal, and I strongly urge the Board to give full and fair consideration of Jersey City's appeal.

This decision for an OFA is critical and carries significant and long-term consequences for the community, as the area is undergoing a period of unprecedented redevelopment. The Harsimus Branch is the last remaining underutilized rail corridor providing direct access to Jersey City, a rare and irreplaceable asset. If preserved, it could serve as the backbone for reducing air pollution stemming from heavy truck traffic while expanding green infrastructure and delivering reliable, equitable, and environmentally responsible public transit to a countless number of residents. Both the Board and Conrail have acknowledged the abandonment of this line, and transforming it into a critical piece of infrastructure could help the community achieve their goals in moving people and freight.

The OFA has received widespread and sustained support from residents, community stakeholders, and elected officials, all of whom recognize the importance of preserving this corridor for public benefit.

It is for these reasons that I strongly urge that you give full and fair consideration of Jersey City's appeal of an OFA to support the preservation of the passenger rail service and other compatible public purposes. I have requested that counsel for Jersey City file and serve this letter. Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have any questions, please contact Jeremy Julis in our Jersey City District Office at (201) 309-0301.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert Menendez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress
New Jersey's Eighth Congressional District