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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3207

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August 10, 2010

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott, III
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Attn: Docket No. FD35141

Dear Chairman Elliott,

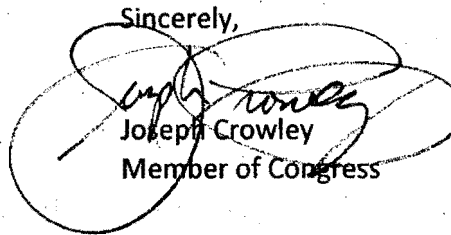
As you continue to evaluate the environmental impact of laying 3.4 miles of new track in Suffolk County, New York (the proposal referenced in Docket No. FD35141), I urge you to take into serious consideration the dangerous air and noise pollution that will be emitted by an increased number of out-dated freight trains passing through Queens, and subsequently reaching the new tracks. Clearly, we need urgent remedies for this problem.

On a daily basis, freight trains carrying solid waste from Brooklyn and Long Island pass through many neighborhoods in Queens on their way out of New York. Too often, these trains idle on tracks for long periods of time, emitting harmful diesel fumes and a foul stench that is inhaled by residents – many of whom are children. To add insult to injury, residents are woken up between the hours of 1am and 5am by loud trains passing through their area.

While I support the use of freight rail as a mode of transport, modern technology can reduce the impact these trains have on the surrounding communities and improve the quality of life for area residents. That is why before building track that would add to rail traffic passing through Queens, I urge you to develop and implement ways to reduce the air and noise pollution that would be created as a result of this initiative.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns, and I look forward to your timely reply.

Sincerely,



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

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