

EI-18268



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

SENATOR
JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR.
15TH SENATE DISTRICT

ALBANY OFFICE
815 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NY 12247
(518) 455-2322
FAX (518) 426-6875

DISTRICT OFFICE
159-53 102ND STREET
HOWARD BEACH, NY 11414
(718) 738-1111
FAX (718) 322-5760

SATELLITE OFFICE
66-85 73RD PLACE
MIDDLE VILLAGE, NY 11379
(718) 497-1630
FAX (718) 497-1761

E-MAIL: ADDABBO@SENATE.STATE.NY.US

CHAIRMAN
ELECTIONS

COMMITTEES:

AGING

CIVIL SERVICE

EDUCATION

LABOR

RACING, GAMING & WAGERING

TRANSPORTATION

VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY
& MILITARY AFFAIRS

August 10, 2010

Mr. Troy Brady
Environmental Protection Specialist
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Brady,

Attn: Docket No. FD 35141

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of concerned constituents in New York State Senatorial District 15, Queens, NY. As you know, the United States Rail Corporation's proposed construction of a 3.4-mile rail and corollary transfer facility in Brookhaven, New York, recently prompted the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis to provide a Draft Environmental Assessment discussing the potential environmental consequences of this project.

The findings and conclusion of the Draft EA raise several concerns that must be addressed. While the STB concludes that this project will not significantly affect the quality of the human or natural environment, the experience of my constituents with pre-existing rail road issues indicates that the inevitable increase in rail traffic resulting from a new transfer facility may indeed have a negative impact on air quality and public health. Furthermore, the narrow purview of the study does not account for the impact this will have on Queens residents whose neighborhoods serve a focal point for a large portion of rail traffic.

Though rail expansion has myriad benefits, it would be irresponsible to develop new extensions and transfer stations before dealing with issues that have hampered the positive effects of rail freight transportation. Prior to approving such projects, it would be both appropriate and necessary for the STB to mandate that rail companies replace outdated locomotives and update their engine technology as recommended by the EPA, in pursuit of reducing emissions and air pollution.

ALBANY OFFICE
815 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NY 12247
(518) 455-2322
FAX (518) 426-6875

DISTRICT OFFICE
159-53 102ND STREET
HOWARD BEACH, NY 11414
(718) 738-1111
FAX (718) 322-5760

SATELLITE OFFICE
66-85 73RD PLACE
MIDDLE VILLAGE, NY 11379
(718) 497-1630
FAX (718) 497-1761

E-MAIL: ADDABBO@SENATE.STATE.NY.US



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

SENATOR
JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR.
15TH SENATE DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN
ELECTIONS

COMMITTEES:

AGING

CIVIL SERVICE

EDUCATION

LABOR

RACING, GAMING & WAGERING

TRANSPORTATION

VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY
& MILITARY AFFAIRS

Finally, I draw your attention to the vague and disconcerting language contained in the Regional Cumulative Effects Conclusion of the Draft EA: "... SEA believes that it is likely that if not used for the proposed action the project area could be used for another development purpose in the foreseeable future and would therefore generate a similar contribution." This caveat allows for the possibility of this transfer facility being used for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and/or Construction and Demolition (C&D) debris. The large volume of MSW and C&D rail traffic that my community absorbs has taken a significant toll on the environment and quality-of-life in the surrounding areas. Exacerbating these dilemmas would be an unacceptable burden for my constituents to incur.

It is therefore that I respectfully request that you consider the aforementioned concerns and request an Environmental Impact Study into the possible ramifications this project may have. An individual would have to spend merely a few minutes in my district to witness the unacceptable conditions caused by nearby railroad activity. I look to avoid an increase in these unacceptable conditions.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

If you should have any questions regarding the above matter or if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Addabbo, Jr.", with a small flourish at the end.

Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.
Senate Member
District 15



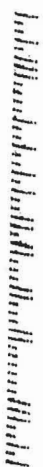
JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR.
SENATOR, 15TH DISTRICT

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY, NY 12247



Mr. Troy Brady
Environmental Protection Specialist
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

20423+0001



HASLER

017H16569458

\$0.440

08/10/2010

Mailed From 11379

US POSTAGE