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United States Senate

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ET-16769

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April 6, 2009

Ms. Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
c/o Mr. Kenneth Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X)

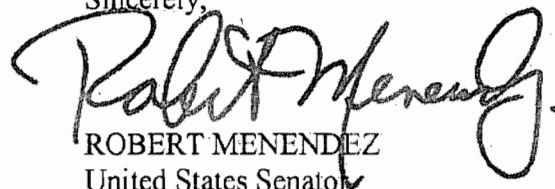
Dear Ms. Quinlan:

In response to your request for public comment, I am writing to comment on the recent Environmental Assessment (EA) issued by the Section on Environmental Analysis of the Surface Transportation Board (STB). I am concerned that the abandonment exemption that Conrail seeks and which is addressed in the EA may be inappropriate in light of the controversy surrounding this matter. Moreover, I am concerned that the public will not have ample time to respond to the EA; accordingly, I urge you to extend the deadline for comment so that members of the public can more adequately express their concerns regarding the EA.

In addition, I would like to re-affirm my view – and that of many of my constituents – that the Embankment is a historic and environmental treasure worthy of preservation. While I disagree with the applicability of the abandonment exemption in this instance, I believe that if the historic review process goes forward as contemplated in the EA then the STB should carefully consider the value that the Embankment provides to the adjoining historic districts and neighborhoods and region as a whole. Moreover, I believe that it is imperative that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation become closely involved in the historic review process, as the Embankment's preservation is critical.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



"Intern, Zachary Radford
(Menendez)"
<Zachary_Radford@menend
ez.senate.gov>

04/06/2009 03:10 PM

To "blodgett@stb.dot.gov" <blodgett@stb.dot.gov>

cc "Connolly, Hal (Menendez)"
<Hal_Connolly@menendez.senate.gov>

bcc

Subject Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X)

Dear Mr. Blodgett:

Please find the attached correspondence from the office of Senator Robert Menendez.

Regards,



Zachary Radford 4-06-09 STB re Harsimus.pdf