

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 7, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

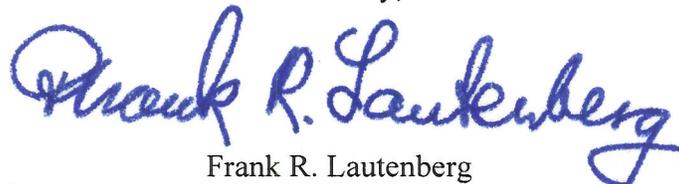
I urge you to work expeditiously to help restore full rail service on the Northeast Corridor (NEC). Superstorm Sandy resulted in unprecedented damage to New Jersey's transportation systems—including rail access between New Jersey and New York—that warrants providing all available resources to restore Amtrak and New Jersey Transit service across the Hudson River.

New Jersey's transportation infrastructure was devastated by Superstorm Sandy. Rail access between New Jersey and New York was crippled by flood waters, including extensive flooding in the tunnels under the Hudson River and damage to a critical substation that powers Amtrak and New Jersey Transit trains. This damage will result in substantially reduced service for an unknown period of time.

Reopening the tunnels and restoring full NEC service is critical to New Jersey's recovery and should be a priority for your Administration in New Jersey's recovery effort. As you know, the NEC is home to one of the busiest, most complex track structures in the world, and this stretch of the NEC is used by hundreds of thousands of Amtrak and New Jersey Transit riders each day to access New York. Amtrak is already taking extraordinary steps to clear the tunnels and repair the substation, and every effort should be made to expedite restoration of the system.

Thank you and the entire Administration for your tremendous support and for pledging to act decisively to rebuild New Jersey from this terrible storm. I look forward to working with you on this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Frank R. Lautenberg

cc: Secretary Ray LaHood, Department of Transportation
Mr. Joseph Boardman, Amtrak