

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 9, 2017

The Honorable Joe Courtney
2348 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Courtney:

Thank you for your letter reiterating your concerns about the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) planning initiative for the Northeast Corridor (NEC), entitled NEC FUTURE, and possible impacts to Connecticut communities along the proposed "Kenyon Bypass."

As you know, NEC FUTURE is a comprehensive planning effort to evaluate and prioritize future investment on the corridor with the twin goals of improving passenger rail capacity and service in the coming decades. These future investments are subject to the annual appropriations process. We understand that while FRA has finalized its Tier 1 environmental impact statement to assess the corridor-wide impacts of proposed improvements, additional Tier 2 reviews must be completed in coordination with state officials before any site-specific projects, like the Kenyon Bypass, may move forward.

Accordingly, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 (P.L. 114-113) provided no funding for FRA to implement improvement projects called for in NEC FUTURE. Similarly, no funding is provided for this purpose in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriations bill passed by the House Appropriations Committee last year.

Again, thank you for contacting us directly with your concerns. We look forward to working with you and other members of the Connecticut congressional delegation as the appropriations process moves forward.

Sincerely,



NITA M. LOWEY
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee



DAVID E. PRICE
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban
Development