

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
1517 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-3826
FAX: (202) 225-3143



PATCHOGUE OFFICE:
31 OAK STREET, SUITE 20
PATCHOGUE, NY 11772
PHONE: (631) 289-1097
FAX: (631) 289-1268

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
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INFRASTRUCTURE

Congressman Lee M. Zeldin
First Congressional District of New York

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August 30, 2016

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The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III
Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
United States Department of Transportation
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Dear Chairman Elliott,

On behalf of my constituents in the 1st Congressional District of New York who rely upon freight rail as a means of expanding the Long Island economy and relieving congestion on our clogged highways, I write in strong support of Brookhaven Rail Terminal's application for designation as a federally recognized rail spur (Motion to End Abeyance Period and Enter Expedited Decision, Finance Docket No. 35819).

Though the freight transportation needs of eastern Long Island are significant, the 1st Congressional District of New York is serviced by only 21 miles of Interstate Highway and our local roads face some of the worst congestion in the nation. The expansion of freight rail services at sites like Brookhaven Rail Terminal will greatly benefit Long Island's transportation economy by easing wear and tear on local infrastructure and bringing more goods to market in a timely, fuel efficient manner. Thus far in 2016, Brookhaven Rail Terminal has serviced over 1,300 railcars, the equivalent of 5,000 trucks, carrying essential products for Long Island's construction, food services, and home improvement industry. This translates not only into job creation but also to a direct reduction in traffic and improvement in air quality for local communities.

I urge the Surface Transportation Board to accept the motion of Brookhaven Rail Terminal and to reach an expeditious decision in this matter. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Dowling in my Washington office at 202-225-3826 or kevin.dowling@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Lee M. Zeldin
Member of Congress
1st Congressional District of New York
Member, House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure

cc:

Deb Miller, Vice Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
Ann D. Begeman, Member, Surface Transportation Board
Congressman Bill Shuster, Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Congressman Jeff Denham, Chairman, Subcommittee on Pipelines, Railways, and Hazardous Materials