

STEPHEN F. LYNCH  
8TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2109**

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December 17, 2014  
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LYNCH HOUSE GOV

December 17, 2014

Ms. Lucille Marvin, Office of Government Affairs  
Surface Transportation Review Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423

Re: DOT/CSX Agreement

Dear Ms. Marvin:

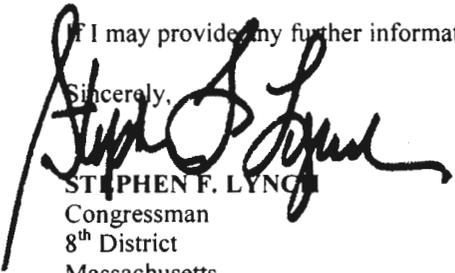
This letter is in reference to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation's (DOT) effort to extend commuter rail service to through the Town of Walpole. As the United States Representative for the Massachusetts 8<sup>th</sup> District, I represent the Town of Walpole.

In January of 2014, the Massachusetts DOT entered into an agreement to purchase the existing CSX Freight Line which will be converted to a commuter rail line. The Town of Walpole was not notified of this transaction until October, 2014. As you may know, I have been a supporter of rail transportation and rail security, however in this case the local elected officials who represent Walpole have raised valid concerns regarding the negative impact it would have on their community. During the October community meeting held at the Boyden School in Walpole, residents of Walpole and Foxborough expressed significant concerns over the lack of process, safety, and the nine-month delay in notifying the elected officials of such a significant local impact. In Walpole, serious concerns have been raised by residents who live along the proposed commuter rail line, and those concerns include the Winter Street crossing which involves the safety of the many school children who cross those lines daily. Presently, the freight lines travel at a speed of 10 miles per hour, but the commuter rail will travel at an estimated 45 miles per hour, raising concerns over public safety. It should also be noted, the elected officials, feel there was a lack of transparency in this process.

Therefore, I am requesting that this process be delayed until the concerns of Walpole and Foxborough are fully addressed as this proposal should have a more comprehensive community process that will alleviate the legitimate concerns of both towns.

If I may provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
STEPHEN F. LYNCH  
Congressman  
8<sup>th</sup> District  
Massachusetts