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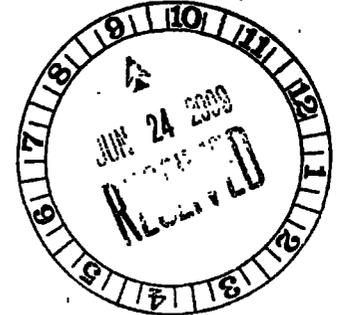
FRANK DERMODY
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May 29, 2009



Honorable Anne Quinlan, Acting Secretary
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Allegheny Valley Railroad Company Petition for Declaratory Order
STB Finance Docket No. 35239

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

As the Pennsylvania State Representative representing the communities in the Allegheny River Valley served by the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company line from New Kensington to Pittsburgh, I have long been a crusader for the Allegheny Valley Rail Commuter Project. I have worked for many years with Congressman Jason Altmire to obtain funding and to promote technical studies to evaluate the feasibility of reinstating passenger rail service between New Kensington and downtown Pittsburgh. Recently, a study completed by HDR Incorporated found the New Kensington to Pittsburgh line would attract enough riders to be feasible although a portion of that service will have to be subsidized.

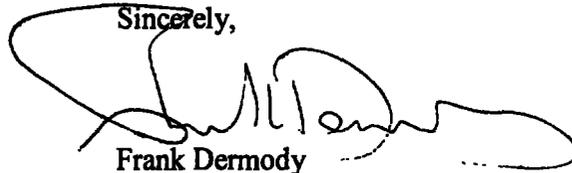
It is most important that we continue to pursue this project because both present and future construction plans for State Route 28 associated with the rehabilitation of that expressway will create severe traffic congestion along the road network which borders the Allegheny River between New Kensington and downtown Pittsburgh. Accordingly, it is imperative that we find alternative transportation options that can reduce this highway congestion, promote energy savings and lower carbon emissions in the Allegheny River Valley. The Allegheny Valley Rail Commuter Project provides an excellent opportunity to address all of these issues.

It is particularly important that as we move forward with this project and evaluate the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company's line, we have the ability to consider the location of passenger loading and unloading facilities in downtown Pittsburgh. Determining whether or not the railroad company has an active rail easement between 16th and 21st Street is extremely important in determining the availability and location of the downtown Pittsburgh terminus for this commuter line.

Honorable Anne Quinlan
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I, therefore, ask that the Surface Transportation Board take the many public interest benefits afforded by this Project into consideration in its evaluation of the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company's Petition for Declaratory Order so that we can continue to proceed with the planning for the Allegheny Valley Rail Commuter Service Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Dermody", written over a horizontal line.

Frank Dermody
33rd Legislative District