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1ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND LABOR

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
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May 19, 2010

Daniel R. Elliott III
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington D.C. 20423

Dear Chairman Elliott,

As eastern Long Island's representative in Congress, I request the Surface Transportation Board to expedite vacating its Cease and Desist Order of 2007 in the matter of Suffolk & Southern Rail Road LLC-Lease and Operation Exemption-Sills Road Realty, LLC (STB Finance Docket No. 35036). I also request the Board to issue the appropriate environmental assessment to allow this project to continue.

As you may know, this project – locally referred to as the Yaphank Rail Spur or Brookhaven Rail Terminal – would construct an urgently needed rail spur in the Town of Brookhaven, New York. Over the short-term, this project would create and sustain local construction jobs and would also facilitate the transportation of raw materials and other cargo to and from Suffolk County, helping to improve safety and alleviate congestion on Long Island roadways.

The Town of Brookhaven and project sponsors reached agreement on implementing this project. In fact, in letter to STB dated March 30, 2010, the Town withdrew its opposition to US Rail's application for a license to build and operate the Terminal. Furthermore, it is my understanding that the parties involved have asked the STB to vacate the cease and desist order issued in 2007 in order to begin preliminary site preparation.

Improving rail access to Long Island is an urgent priority for my district. The Yaphank Rail Spur will go a long way toward achieving this goal. It is my hope that the STB will assert its oversight responsibilities promptly and help guide this project towards completion. Thank you for your attention and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tim Bishop
MEMBER OF CONGRESS