



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

January 17, 2014

The Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Maloney:

Thank you for your letter regarding spectrum issues related to Positive Train Control (PTC) implementation. I share your sense of urgency, particularly given the recent Spuyten Duyvil Metro-North tragedy, and recognize the vital importance of PTC. The Commission has done, and will continue to do, everything within its power to facilitate PTC implementation by the December 31, 2015, statutory deadline. These efforts include helping commuter railroads acquire spectrum, and expediting licensing review.

Since 2009, the Commission's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has worked closely with railroads concerned about licensing and spectrum issues related to PTC, and has approved many spectrum transactions. Of particular note to you, in 2012, the Commission approved an acquisition of spectrum by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), which covers all Long Island Railroad territory, and all but four counties in the MetroNorth operating area, including the area where the recent derailment occurred. The Bureau is working with MTA representatives now to help MTA obtain spectrum to complete MetroNorth's PTC spectrum footprint. The Bureau also is engaged with numerous other commuter rails to facilitate their acquisition of spectrum to deploy PTC.

We will continue working closely with the commuter railroad industry and other Federal agencies to provide guidance about spectrum and related issues, and to facilitate the expeditious deployment of PTC. I appreciate your interest and concern about this issue. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Tom Wheeler", is written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler