

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3218

December 5, 2013

Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I write you today to express my concern over potential radio communication spectrum issues that are currently standing in the way of full implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC) systems by railroads across the country. This issue is even more urgent in light of the tragic Spuyten Duyvil Metro-North derailment on December 1st, which killed four people, including two of my constituents and injured dozens more. Tens of thousands of my constituents take the commuter trains to work every day and it is critical that we provide them with the safest passage possible without delay. I believe that PTC is a great first step in meeting this goal, which is why I have introduced a bill that would allow for additional funding for PTC technology on commuter rail.

In 2008 Congress passed a law mandating PTC systems for commuter and freight railroads. It is my understanding that several railroads, including the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), have expressed concern about accessing the required radio spectrum needed to implement PTC. In order to effectively and efficiently implement a comprehensive PTC system on these systems, I request that the FCC work in concert with the Department of Transportation to provide guidance to all commuter railroads seeking sufficient spectrum and address any other outstanding concerns.

It is imperative that we address these issues before additional lives are lost. In the wake of the Spuyten Duyvil Metro-North derailment – a PTC-preventable tragedy – we owe it to the American travelling public to do everything we can to ensure the speedy and proper implementation of this life-saving technology. My office stands ready to assist you in any way necessary.

Thank you for your consideration of this request Chairman Wheeler, and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Cc:

Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation