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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3217

April 28, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear President Trump and Secretary Duffy,

I write to you today with serious concerns regarding the decision by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) to slash service while conducting repairs on the East River Tunnel. Amtrak is planning to cancel 25% of daily Empire Service trains between Penn Station and Albany and slashing 10% of peak Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) service into Penn.

These represent drastic and unnecessary cuts to service in New York that will have a serious impact on transportation in New York. This service is critical for businesses and communities connected by rail. These reductions will deal a massive economic blow and add an extra hardship to the New Yorkers who rely on these trains.

This plan is a total disaster for New York travelers, and it's completely avoidable. Amtrak has alternatives that would keep service running during nights and weekends, but instead, they're choosing to negatively impact service during peak travel times, hurting working families, students, businesses, and tourists. Other cities and agencies have managed to conduct repairs without needing to implement such cuts to service.

I strongly urge you to step in and force Amtrak to keep the East River tunnel open during the day. We cannot allow Amtrak to sideline tens of thousands of travelers for years to come when there is a clear alternative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael V. Lawler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent.

Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress