



October 20, 2015

The Honorable Senator Cory Booker
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

At a time when freight traffic is growing dramatically, our economic strength depends on a consistent and predictable rail network throughout the state that serves both freight and passenger customers. I am writing to express the support of the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce for a federal policy that allows for the continued growth of freight rail service.

Bipartisan legislation has been introduced to extend the deadline for U.S. railroads to implement Positive Train Control (PTC) technology. **H.R. 3651** (*Positive Train Control Enforcement and Implementation Act of 2015*) extends the deadline to fully implement the technology to the end of 2018.

Our freight railroads have clearly demonstrated their own commitment to get this immense technological challenge right. They have already spent 5.5 billion dollars developing and installing this new technology. Full implementation will require an additional 4.5 billion in spending for testing, and training of over ninety thousand employees. It is important that this revolutionary safety enhancement is installed and implemented correctly and in a manner that does not slow or diminish current rail service.

Additionally, any interruption in the delivery of New Jersey manufactured products would have significant economic and societal consequences for the U.S. economy.

Congress must act immediately to provide for a reasonable, workable extension for PTC to avoid a potential shutdown. We ask your **support** in passing **H.R. 3651** as soon as possible or we risk massive disruptions to freight and passenger rail service.

As always, thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. EGENTON
Senior Vice President, Government Relations