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ANGELO SANTABARBARA  
Assemblyman 111<sup>th</sup> District

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Urgent Request to Address Train Derailments

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to urgently request swift action from the U.S. Department of Transportation regarding the concerning issue of train derailments. Recently, in the Town of Amsterdam, NY, situated within my Assembly district, experienced the impact of this problem. This week, a CSX train, consisting of 17 cars including nine empty petroleum gas tanks and a variety of mixed freight cars, derailed. Fortunately, no leaks were identified, but the potential consequences could have been disastrous. The incident has also caused significant disruptions to both commercial and passenger rail services.

Although, the derailment earlier this year in East Palestine, Ohio, brought national attention to the issue of train derailments and their detrimental environmental effects, the recent derailment in Amsterdam serves as a clear example of the immediate need for intervention to ensure the safety of our railways in all our communities. Given the proximity of this derailment to the Mohawk River, it narrowly avoided causing another major environmental incident due to the empty fuel tanks.

To enhance rail safety, I strongly advocate for a comprehensive and urgent safety evaluation of all federally regulated rail lines across the nation. Additionally, it is imperative that substantial federal investments be allocated to modernize the country's rail infrastructure, thereby improving safety, and preventing future accidents.

Your focused consideration of this vital matter is greatly appreciated. I am confident that through collaborative efforts among various levels of government, we can effectively tackle this widespread concern of train derailments.

Sincerely,

Angelo Santabarbara  
Member of the New York State Assembly  
111th District | Representing areas of Montgomery & Schenectady Counties