

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 27, 2008

The Honorable Jon Corzine, Governor  
State of New Jersey  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Corzine:

We write to you today in reference to the recent comments you made regarding the Monmouth Ocean Middlesex (MOM) Passenger Rail Line.

Since the passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in 1991, we have worked diligently to secure federal funding for the MOM Line. Our most recent attempts to provide safe and efficient rail service to the underserved southern and western regions of Monmouth and Ocean counties have resulted in an additional \$2.5 million dollars of federal funding to be used to complete the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), and other necessary studies.

Federal guidelines require a preferred alternative to be decided upon prior to completion of the DEIS. Not following this designated process aimed at determining a preferred environmentally sound alternative could put scarce federal dollars for our state at risk. This is especially important as Congress moves toward reauthorizing our transportation programs and as New Jersey undertakes major projects such as the Hudson River Tunnel, the Lackawanna Cutoff, and the MOM Line.

Residents of all three counties have expressed significant support for the Lakehurst-Monmouth Junction routes, and data at this time indicates this route will experience the greatest number of riders. Counting it out prior to completion of the DEIS seems counterproductive.

Providing transportation alternatives for the growing populations of Monmouth, Ocean and Middlesex counties will alleviate traffic, cut down on pollution, and improve the quality of life for residents in Central New Jersey. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Chris Smith  
Member of Congress



Jim Saxton  
Member of Congress