

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

As our country's economy weathers an unprecedented economic crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, and as Congress moves to help Americans weather this storm, we must ensure that any financial assistance package include provisions to help public transit agencies and the workforce they support. Specifically, as representatives of the State of New Jersey, we urge you to include provisions in economic stimulus legislation to help transit agencies like New Jersey Transit continue operating and paying its workforce.

NJ Transit is a lynchpin in our region's transportation network, interconnected with highways, passenger rail, buses, and airports. Even in times like these, when many Americans are protecting themselves from COVID-19 by quarantining themselves and avoiding crowds, NJ Transit is providing continuous service for those with essential travel needs. However, due to the reduced use in service, NJ Transit – like many other public transit agencies – is projecting the full impact of fare revenue losses will total more than \$1.25 billion by the end of Fiscal Year 2021.

This is only one of many examples of how public transit agencies around the country are being impacted by the virus. If agencies like NJ Transit do not receive financial assistance, we will be facing a two-tiered economic catastrophe – massive layoffs and a vast disruption of an entire transit network. The need is urgent, and we must act to prevent a catastrophe. We look forward to working together to support this critical transportation industry.

Sincerely,



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Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

BILL PASCRELL, JR.  
Member of Congress

MIKIE SHERRILL  
Member of Congress

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress

JOSH GOTTHEIMER  
Member of Congress

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN  
Member of Congress

DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.  
Member of Congress

ANDY KIM  
Member of Congress

TOM MALINOWSKI  
Member of Congress