



## State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PO Box 001

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0001

April 5, 2017

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor

Christopher S. Porrino, Attorney General  
NJ Department of Law and Public Safety  
PO Box 080  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear General Porrino:

In just over a week a NJ TRANSIT train derailed and another was struck and seriously damaged by a derailed Amtrak train while traveling at low speeds in Pennsylvania Station New York (PSNY). These derailments caused extensive damage, considerable disruption to commuter train service throughout the region, and continue to frustrate the travel of tens of thousands of NJ TRANSIT customers. These incidents raise serious questions about the condition of tracks and other assets maintained by Amtrak on the Northeast Corridor (NEC) and Amtrak's ability or willingness to properly maintain them in a state-of-good-repair.

Amtrak is legally responsible for the maintenance of tracks, signals, switches and other assets on the NEC, including those located at PSNY. Under the Northeast Corridor Services Agreement, (Agreement), NJ TRANSIT recently agreed to make significantly greater financial payments to Amtrak to help maintain NEC assets in a state-of-good-repair, with the expectation that its customers would experience the benefits of greater investment in better maintained infrastructure. To this end, NJ TRANSIT just made a payment of \$62M last week for capital investment in NEC assets that was supposed to be made by Amtrak in 2016, not including monthly payments to cover Amtrak operating expenses ranging from \$2.5M to \$5M per month.

The recurring derailments at PSNY indicate Amtrak does not take its obligations seriously and has not effectively applied NJ TRANSIT's considerable payments to the proper maintenance of these assets, which are absolutely essential to its customers. Amtrak's apparent disregard for NJ TRANSIT's customers is entirely unacceptable to me.

Accordingly, I am asking you to consider initiating appropriate legal action as necessary to recover payments made by NJ TRANSIT to Amtrak under the Agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Christie".

Chris Christie  
Governor