

ELISE M. STEFANIK
21ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK
REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE CHAIR
2211 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4611
stefanik.house.gov

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE
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ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3221

September 25, 2023

Roger Harris
Amtrak President
1 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Tracy Robinson
CN President and CEO
935 de La Gauchetière Street West
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3B 2M9

Dear Mr. Harris and Ms. Robinson,

In light of the recent resumption of full passenger service along the Amtrak Adirondack Line, I write to you today to urge Amtrak and Canadian National Railway (CN) to work together to identify the requirements for track improvements along the 43 miles of track owned by CN in order to avoid any further service disruptions due to air temperature. Amtrak and CN must ensure that the Adirondack Line is fully operational by next summer. Without a plan of action, the closure of this past summer will repeat itself, hampering tourism and economic development and further damaging the close relationship between Upstate New York residents and our Canadian neighbors. This is unacceptable.

As you know, the Adirondack Line runs from New York City to Montreal and has multiple stops in my Congressional District, including Fort Edward, Whitehall, Ticonderoga, Port Henry, Westport, Plattsburgh, and Rouses Point. For years, I worked diligently to secure the full resumption of service of the Amtrak Adirondack Line following its closure during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. I commended Amtrak when the Adirondack Line finally resumed full service on April 3, 2023, after years of my advocacy. However, in June, CN implemented safety restrictions of 10mph when the atmospheric temperature was 86 degrees Fahrenheit or higher due to concerns about the condition of the track. As a result, Amtrak suspended service north of Saratoga Springs for seventy-nine days.

Both Amtrak and CN had over three years of stopped service time to address any concerns they may have had with the railroad infrastructure. Going forward, Amtrak and CN must work together to outline a plan on the track improvements needed, ensure track conditions are safe for all passengers, and end this continued ambiguity on the availability of service of the Adirondack Line.

The Amtrak Adirondack Line is a vital economic driver for Upstate New York and the North Country. Our small businesses rely on it to connect tourists and our Canadian neighbors to our

EAST GREENBUSH
99 TROY ROAD
SUITE 312
EAST GREENBUSH, NY 12061
(518) 242-4707

HERKIMER
108 COURT STREET
SUITE 102
HERKIMER, NY 13350
(315) 219-8005

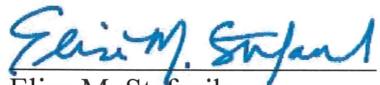
OGDENSBURG
330 FORD STREET
SUITE B8
OGDENSBURG, NY 13669
(315) 541-2670

PLATTSBURGH
137 MARGARET STREET
SUITE 100
PLATTSBURGH, NY 12901
(518) 561-2324

region, as well as provide New York families with a critical transportation service. Our communities in Upstate New York and the North Country deserve the certainty of service, which is why shutting down the Adirondack Line during times of hot air temperature is not an acceptable solution. I implore you to ensure that this service disruption does not happen again and to commit to a detailed timeline to provide certainty for tourists and families throughout Upstate New York and the North Country.

Thank you and I look forward to your prompt response to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress