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Congress of the United States
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July 14, 2022

Stephen J. Gardner
President and Chief Executive Officer
Amtrak
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Gardner,

I write to you today urging Amtrak to immediately resume rail operations on the Adirondack line between Albany and Montreal, which runs through the 21st Congressional District of New York. The Adirondack line is a vital economic driver for Upstate New York and the North Country. However, Amtrak has yet to resume service on the Adirondack after ceasing operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On June 27, 2022, Amtrak announced the resumption of service for the Maple Leaf train, which runs between New York City, parts of Upstate New York, Toronto, and Ontario. After Amtrak resumed its cross-border travel to Canada via the Maple Leaf line, the continued delay in service of the Adirondack is unacceptable to New York State and our citizens, particularly in the North Country, that rely on passenger rail service for critical transportation.

During conversations in May and June, Amtrak indicated to my office that that staffing is no longer the primary issue for returning service to the rail line, but operational issues needed to be addressed with our Canadian partners. However, considering Amtrak is working with Canada to resume service on the Maple Leaf line to Toronto and Ontario, it is concerning that agreements cannot be made to additionally resume service to Montreal.

More concerning is that Canadian National recently indicated they are ready to resume operations as soon as Amtrak is. Amtrak is a federally chartered corporation created and funded by Congress with the mission to serve the American people in cities, suburbs, and small towns across the country. It is frustrating to see the lack of service to the rural areas of Upstate New York.

I urge you to take immediate action to resume normal rail service operations on the Adirondack between New York City and Montreal to provide New Yorkers with critical transportation.

Sincerely,



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress

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