

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



KATHLEEN A. MARCHIONE
SENATOR, 43RD DISTRICT

March 28, 2018

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Mr. Matthew P. Margaglio, Coastal Resource Specialist 1
New York State Department of State
Office of Planning, Development & Community Infrastructure
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12231

Dear Mr. Margaglio:

I write on an urgent matter directly affecting the quality of life for Columbia County communities, local governments and citizens. This matter concerns a proposal by Amtrak to install nearly 8,600 feet of fencing and gates along select areas of Columbia County.

This proposed project has elicited numerous local concerns about its expected negative impact on the quality of life for Columbia County and its communities. The proposal has also raised serious issues that it could significantly impair Columbia County first responders and other public safety personnel in their initiating water rescues, as they would now have to navigate fencing and gates, all of which could delay response times and needlessly endanger public safety. Along with these concerns, many area residents believe that Amtrak's proposal would severely limit local access to the Hudson River and would undo years of tradition that allowed for regular access to this critical waterway.

Furthermore, as currently constituted, this proposal lacks many critical details that Columbia County stakeholders deserve to know. Specifically, local concerns surrounding the installation of gates and fences by Amtrak along the right-of-ways in Germantown, Stockport and Stuyvesant, respectively, all of which are located in the 43rd Senate District that I serve and represent. There are many unanswered questions as to how the gates and fencing would operate and who exactly would control the access. These are important unresolved issues and they must be answered to the satisfaction of Columbia County residents and elected officials, many of whom have already written you expressing similar concerns about Amtrak's proposal.

(Over...)

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Accordingly, in light of all these noted deficiencies, I hereby request suspension of the 15-day public comment period. I also request that community-wide informational meetings be convened in each area throughout Columbia County that would be impacted by Amtrak's proposal.

The purpose of these informational meetings would be ensuring that all of the aforementioned questions are answered and that local stakeholders have their voices heard regarding Amtrak's proposal. Thank you for your attention to my requests; I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Marchione". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Marchione
State Senator, 43rd District

Cc: The Honorable James Guzzi, Supervisor for the Town of Livingston
The Honorable Raymond Staats, Supervisor for the Town of Clermont
The Honorable John Drabick, Deputy Supervisor, Town of Stockport
The Honorable Robert Beaury, Supervisor, Town of Germantown
The Honorable Ron Knott, Supervisor, Town of Stuyvesant