



**Didi Barrett**

Assemblymember 106<sup>th</sup> District

Columbia County

Dutchess County

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIR  
Libraries and Education  
Technology

COMMITTEES  
Agriculture  
Environmental Conservation  
Mental Health  
Tourism, Parks, Arts and  
Sports Development  
Veterans' Affairs

New York State Department of State  
Office of Planning, Development & Community Infrastructure  
One Commerce Plaza, Suite 1010  
99 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12231

March 28, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I write today as part of the public comment period regarding Amtrak's recent proposal to install gates and fencing along portions of the railroad's Empire corridor along the Hudson River between Rhinebeck and Stuyvesant.

As the Assemblymember representing several of the towns along this route, I join Riverkeeper and Scenic Hudson, as well as the Supervisors of Germantown, Livingston, Clermont, Stockport, and Stuyvesant, in their call for Amtrak and the Department of State (DOS) to hold public information meetings in the affected communities. While we are pleased to see the comment period extended until May 1st, we request that the DOS require public meetings. It is essential that our communities both be informed of the impact of this proposal on their waterfront and be able to voice their local concerns to Amtrak and the DOS.

Amtrak's proposal has serious ramifications for communities along the Hudson River. Whether enjoying recreational activities or the stunning viewsheds, residents and visitors alike have long cherished their river access. Indeed this loss of public access may well be in conflict with the NYS Coastal Management Plan, as well as incompatible with the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plans of multiple communities in the area.

There are serious safety concerns as the plan negatively impacts access for emergency responders to both the water and the shore; and there are fears that certain animal habitats that have flourished in the relatively undisturbed areas around the railroad tracks would be upended by this proposal. We ask that DOS listen to these and other concerns of the local communities.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office.

Sincerely,

Didi Barrett  
Assemblymember, 106th District