Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 29, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

As Representatives of the State of New Jersey, we are writing first and foremost to thank you for your hard work to include emergency stimulus assistance for public transit agencies in the previous COVID-19 emergency response legislation. New Jersey Transit (NJ Transit) benefited greatly from the assistance provided through the CARES Act for maintaining operations and, as a result, the millions of people who rely on this agency can rest easy knowing that it is better prepared to be up and running when our region starts going back to work. However, in light of the unprecedented and prolonged shutdowns caused by the ongoing public health crisis, it is now clear that NJ Transit – like other public transit agencies – will require additional financial assistance to weather the ongoing storm. That is why we are now writing to urge you to include more funding for public transit agencies in the final language of the next Congressionally approved emergency assistance package so that NJ Transit can address an expected $1.2 billion gap in its operating budget.

NJ transit is the largest statewide transit agency in the nation which, aside from providing an essential transit service to our busy and productive region, employs thousands of individuals whose livelihoods depend on it. Unfortunately, as a result of severe COVID-related declines in ridership, NJ Transit is expecting fare revenue losses for this current fiscal year alone to total nearly $268 million – and for that loss to rise to nearly $1.2 billion. Additionally, while providing limited services around the state, NJ Transit is incurring approximately $10 million each month on expanded equipment sanitizing and the procurement of additional personal protective equipment for its employees and customers.

NJ Transit is a lynchpin in our region's transportation network and, even in times like these, it is providing continuous service for workers with essential travel needs. When the COVID-19 crisis is over, our region will need NJ Transit to be ready to transport the millions of people who keep

our economy running. We hope to work together with you to be sure that NJ Transit gets the assistance it needs to make this happen.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Rep. Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Rep. Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Andy Kim
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress