

June 11, 2009

Senator Anthony R. Bucco  
75 Bloomfield Ave  
Denville, NJ 07834

### **Email and Regular Mail**

Senator Anthony R. Bucco,

Recently, Morris County applied for and was granted 6 million dollars in funds from the new federal stimulus package to resurrect a 4 mile railroad line from Berkshire Valley through Horseshoe Lake in Roxbury Township. A portion of this line runs parallel to the Horseshoe Lake Bike Path that is used daily by thousands of Roxbury residents of all ages for walking, riding, and jogging. At its closest point, this rail line runs within 3 feet of our Bike Path. The Roxbury Mayor and Council only object to the reconstruction of this specific portion of the line; less than 1/8 of the entire line. Morris County Officials have made a case with the federal government to obtain funds that would put this rail line back in service to transport cargo over to the old Westinghouse facility in Randolph. This rail bed has been dormant for over 15 years and was previously designated in 1998 by the Morris County Bicycle and Pedestrian Element of the Morris County Master Plan as a bicycle pathway. Approximately three years ago, Morris County began planning for the reconstruction and reactivation of the line while in discussion with the Township about utilizing the rail bed as a bikeway. The rail bed at this time is owned by Holland manufacturing. Implementation of this plan will impact Roxbury in the following ways:

1. The train cars will extend into the bike lane; this will create a safety issue for Roxbury residents who utilize this path for bicycling, walking and jogging activities.
2. When trains are operating in this area, this will severely impact ingress and egress to the Horseshoe Lake Island and will impact the large number of events held at this facility.
3. Trains that are left on the tracks will negatively impact the esthetics at Horseshoe Lake Park, the Morris County Park of the year in 2007.
4. Implementation of this railway has NO benefit to Roxbury. It may assist surrounding communities in obtaining more ratable to offset their taxes. Roxbury will not receive this benefit. In fact when comparing the ratables return on investment to the cost to resurrect this line, it simply does not make financial sense.
5. The implementation of a freight line will reduce the economic viability of Horseshoe Lake. As an example, the Soccer Kick-Off Classic generates over \$300,000 in revenues for our business community. Major events such as the annual Memorial Day parade, the St. Therese Carnival and the MS Walk may also be impacted.
6. The operations of and type of materials carried over a railroad have federal protection and cannot be regulated by the Township nor Morris County. Volatile chemicals can be traveling the line within a few feet of our recreational facility.

The Township has offered an alternate solution to mitigate the safety and recreation concerns caused by this project and are awaiting a response. This redirection of the tracks will provide a path that is shorter in distance to the destination point desired, has minimal impact to the Horseshoe Lake facility and allows all parties to work together for a common cause. The Township Recreation Advisory committee, Environmental Commission and Township Council are united in their objection to this plan. This issue has been brought to the attention of the Morris County Freeholders.

We have a situation where stimulus money is negatively impacting Roxbury. There are other more valuable uses for taxpayer money than to create a problem for Roxbury Township and its crown jewel park. If this must be implemented, Roxbury must be heard and an alternate plan must be put forth.

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3. The improvements must enhance the aesthetic quality of the park.
4. The Township's Tax payers should not pay for any of the above mentioned items.

Please contact my office should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Christopher Raths, Township Manager

cc. Mayor and Council  
Rick Blood  
Dave Stierli  
Morris County Freeholders

June 11, 2009

Assemblyman Michael Carroll  
20 South Street Suit 2 B  
Morristown, NJ 07960

### **Email and Regular Mail**

Assemblyman Michael Carroll,

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Sincerely,

Christopher Raths, Township Manager

cc. Mayor and Council  
Rick Blood  
Dave Stierli  
Morris County Freeholders

June 11, 2009

Assemblyman Rick Merkt  
12 Oldbridge Road  
Randolph, NJ 07869

### **Email and Regular Mail**

Assemblyman Rick Merkt,

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Sincerely,

Christopher Raths, Township Manager

cc. Mayor and Council  
Rick Blood  
Dave Stierli  
Morris County Freeholders

June 11, 2009

Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen  
2442 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-3001

### **Email and Regular Mail**

Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen,

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Sincerely,

Christopher Raths, Township Manager

cc. Mayor and Council  
Rick Blood  
Dave Stierli  
Morris County Freeholders

June 11, 2009

Senator Robert Menendez  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

### **Email and Regular Mail**

Senator Robert Menendez,

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Rick Blood  
Dave Stierli  
Morris County Freeholders

June 11, 2009

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg  
324 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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Rick Blood  
Dave Stierli  
Morris County Freeholders

June 11, 2009

Honorable Jon S. Corzine  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

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