

## COUNTY OF HUDSON



### OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BRENNAN COURT HOUSE  
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**THOMAS A. DE GISE  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Mr. Dennis Martin  
Executive Director  
New Jersey Transit  
1 Penn Plaza East  
Newark, NJ 07105

**RE:** Contract Negotiations PEB 249 Proposal—Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Martin:

I am writing regarding the current contract negotiations with the coalition of labor unions representing rail labor for New Jersey Transit. My hope is that you will resolve this dispute quickly to avoid a costly service disruption.

Hudson County is a critical crossroads for business activity in the New York metropolitan area. A protracted rail service disruption would clog our roadways, negatively affect air quality and damage our international reputation as a quality, low-cost address for much of the financial service industry's back office operations.

As outlined by my colleagues from New Jersey's congressional delegation who have been in correspondence with you, the wisest course for NJT to follow at this time, after several years at an impasse with coalition of unions, would be to seriously consider the Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) 249 proposal authored by a neutral panel of independent arbitrators appointed by the President.

This process, collectively known as Section 9a, provides additional collective bargaining procedures specifically for commuter railways to avoid disruptions of service that would negatively affect the economic and environmental quality of life of the communities dependent on commuter rail services like NJT.

As a fellow government executive, regularly involved in the negotiation of union contracts, I am acutely cognizant of the competing pressures you face—calls to treat workers fairly while at the same time attempting to keep the financial situation of NJT in reasonable order while the state invests heavily in needed post-Sandy resiliency efforts.

But as my colleagues from the House have pointed out, it appears that the major financial hurdles cited by NJT have been addressed with Congress' recent passage of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and the omnibus spending bill.

Service disruption would be a disaster for Hudson County. I urge you to resolve this dispute as swiftly as possible via the PEB 249 proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas A. DeGise". The signature is stylized with a large initial "T" and "D".

Thomas A. DeGise

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Hudson County Executive