

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

January 14, 2010

1707 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5341

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
51 MONROE STREET, #507  
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850  
(301) 424-3501

SUITE C-201  
6475 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE  
HYATTSVILLE, MD 20783  
(301) 891-6982

[www.vanhollen.house.gov](http://www.vanhollen.house.gov)

Ms. Beverley Swaim-Staley  
Secretary  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
PO Box 548  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, MD 21076-0548

Dear Secretary Swaim-Staley:

Since 2005, I have been communicating with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) regarding my constituents' concerns with respect to the use of train horns at the Forest Glen Road highway-rail crossing with CSX Transportation. I understand MDOT's concerns with Montgomery County's proposal to establish a 24-hour Quiet Zone at Cross Number 140488D and appreciate that your staff does not think that it can actively support this application.

I am concerned, however, that MDOT appears to have changed its stance with respect to its commitment to pass the County's application through to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with a neutral position. Following correspondence in October 2007 in which MDOT agreed to forward the County's application with a neutral position, I advised the Forest Glen Station Homeowners Association, the Glen Manor Condominium Board of Directors, the Glen Briar Condominium Association, the Forest Estates Community Association, the Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association, and Mayor Peter Fosselman of Kensington of MDOT's position so that they could proceed accordingly. I have enclosed this prior correspondence for your information.

More recently, Arthur Holmes, Director of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, received an October 9, 2009 letter from Caitlin Rayman, Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, which indicated that MDOT would forward the County's request to the FRA, but would include an outline of its concerns along with the application. This does not appear to be in keeping with MDOT's previous assurance.

I would appreciate your reviewing the attached letters and advising me of your findings. All correspondence can be sent to the following address:

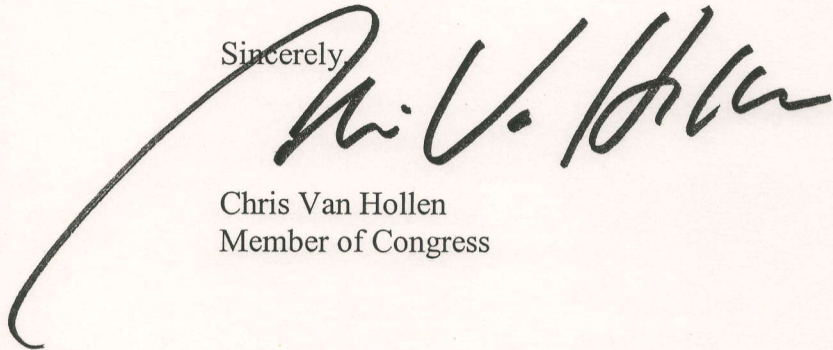
51 Monroe Street, Suite 507  
Rockville, MD 20850  
FAX: (301) 424-5992

Ms. Beverly Swaim-Staley  
January 14, 2010  
Page 2

If you need additional information, please contact Michael Parsons in my Rockville office at (301) 424-3501.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Van Hollen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish on the left side that extends downwards and then curves back up towards the start of the signature.

Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress