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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
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SENATOR TODD KAMINSKY
9TH SENATE DISTRICT

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
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April 28, 2017

Jeffrey Dinowitz
Chair, NYS Assembly Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 423
Albany, NY 12247

Michael H. Ranzenhofer
Chair, NYS Senate Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 609
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Chairmen Ranzenhofer and Dinowitz,

I am writing to request you hold an emergency, joint hearing regarding the wave of cancellations and delays on the Long Island Railroad ("LIRR"). In light of serious issues surrounding Penn Station – which, as you know, Amtrak controls – and its failing infrastructure, Long Island commuters have faced unprecedented hardship that must be addressed. Amtrak's recent concerning statements about the poor state of its equipment, as well plans to remedy these problems through large-scale track shutdowns that will further impact LIRR riders, have commuters worried that there is no competent body looking out for their welfare. I am getting scores of calls daily from commuters demanding accountability, and it is our job as legislators to get answers.

As you may know, Penn Station-related problems have become so commonplace that a recent *Newsday* cover called it "Pain Station." In light of Amtrak's central role in the recent wave of cancellations and shut downs, it is imperative that they be included at this hearing. Moreover, commuters are also interested in the MTA's plans with respect to Penn Station and Amtrak's control of it, as well as overall operational issues that the LIRR has recently faced.



This is not just a matter of inconvenience; these delays and cancellations severely impact people's lives. Every time trains are delayed or cancelled, commuters miss important work meetings or moments with their families. Legislators must have the opportunity to ask tough questions and hold officials accountable. I strongly urge you to hold a joint emergency hearing as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Kaminsky', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Todd Kaminsky
Senator, 9th District