Without funding, the passenger rail service would begin to see its final days

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(201) 222-2828

Contact: Olga Alvarez

(Washington, D.C.) - Understanding the need for Amtrak, the passenger railway service vital to New Jersey passengers, Congressman Albio Sires has written a letter to House Committee Budget Chairman John Spratt requesting full restoration of the $1.9 million budget it needs to operate.

My home state of New Jersey relies heavily upon the Northeast Corridor Rails to help link New Jersey's extensive rail system with Manhattan. This creates economic stability in the region by providing businesses with workers that have public means to travel between New Jersey and New York. In addition, many of my constituents count on Amtrak service for travel throughout the Northeast and across the country, wrote Congressman Sires.

President Bush's Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Proposal only provides for $900 million, resulting in $393 million in cuts. Congressman Sires fears this reduction in funding would force Amtrak to shut down.

Last year Amtrak's 19,000 served an estimated 25 million passengers. Congressman Sires wants to make sure employees and customers can continue to rely on the railway system.