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United States Senate

September 10, 2018

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The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

I am writing to request an update on the status of the implementation of positive train control (PTC) on the Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) rail system.

The June 1, 2018 letter from Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Administrator Ronald Batory to you and Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Secretary Pete Rahn cited MARC's Quarterly PTC Progress Report for Quarter 1 of 2018 as a cause for concern. That report showed that MARC had only installed 52% of its PTC system hardware as of March 31, 2018. FRA considers any railroad that has less than 85% of its PTC system hardware as of March 31, 2018, to be "at risk" for not meeting the December 31, 2018 deadline to be eligible for a two-year extension.

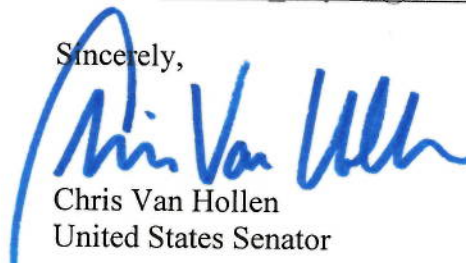
On August 23, 2018 the FRA released MARC's Progress Report for Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30, 2018). This report shows that MARC's percentage of system hardware installed dropped to 51% - keeping MARC in the "at risk" category.

The Maryland Transit Administration received a FY17 grant for \$9.44 million through the Federal Transit Administration's Commuter Rail Positive Train Control Grant Program and just recently received an FY18 grant for \$2.08 million from the FRA's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program. Included in your update on the status of implementation I would like to know the status of current use (or planned use) of these funds.

FRA can impose civil penalties on railroads that fail to meet the December 31, 2018 deadline. This is something that we all want to avoid. Please let me know what my office can do to assist MDOT as you move toward completion.

I look forward to hearing from you on the progress being made. For any questions, please contact Deborah Haynie, at 202-224-4654 or Deborah_Haynie@vanhollen.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Pete Rahn, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation

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