



COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

Marcus J. Molinaro
County Executive

August 18, 2021

Clifford A. Thomas
Director, Rail Safety Bureau

Robert Montgomery
Chief, Rail Inspection and Accident Investigation

Dear Mr. Thomas and Mr. Montgomery:

I was on a tour of the Hudson River yesterday with Riverkeeper and observed a temporary repair to a CSX freight rail bridge just south of Blue Point between Highland and Milton. The bridge was sagging with a temporary fix of concrete and wooden timbers.

It is my understanding that Riverkeeper has contacted CSX multiple times. Given the hazardous nature of some of the product being transported on this line as well as the line's proximity to the River and the drinking water intakes used by Poughkeepsie and Lloyd, it is essential that the bridge be immediately inspected by an independent state-appointed rail bridge engineer and repaired as soon as possible.

I have copied the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council (Hudson 7) because of the critical importance of rail safety as well as the Ulster County Executive.

Please use your authority to address this potentially extreme environmental and community risk. I would appreciate hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive

CC: Basil Seggos (DEC)
Kevin Hale (DEC)
Matt Franklin (DEC)
Kelly R Turturro (DEC)
Patrick Ryan
Evelyn Wright
Hudson 7
Steve Touw
Dan Shapley
Richard Webster
Lance Macmillan (DOT)