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**JULIE MORRISON**  
STATE SENATOR - 29<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT  
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Dear Senators Durbin and Duckworth, Congressmen Schneider and Krishnamoorthi and Congresswoman Schakowsky,

I am writing to add my voice and express my strong support of the communities and countless constituents in my state senatorial district who have contacted me regarding the proposed Amtrak expansion and corresponding construction of a third rail.

As you are aware, Amtrak wants to increase service on its Hiawatha line between Milwaukee and Chicago from seven to ten round trips daily. In order to make that possible, WisDOT and IDOT have proposed ten projects along the METRA owned tracks that would allow for faster freight train speeds and increased capacity. One of those projects involves building third siding tracks to hold idling freight trains. This proposal would affect the safety of citizens, schools, parks, homes, hospitals, nature preserves, and businesses in Lake Forest and Glenview, both of which are in my district.

While at this point there is no direct role for the State of Illinois, I have written to WisDOT and IDOT asking that an expanded Environmental Impact Study be conducted. Starting a major infrastructure project such as this cannot commence before a thorough understanding of all potential hazards are known. In addition, I have asked both agencies to investigate whether other suitable locations – away from highly populated centers – can be utilized to complete this project.

The environmental ramifications of this project remain of paramount concern. In an effort to be of continued assistance to our constituents, Lake County Board member, Mike Rummel and I are planning a town hall meeting in Lake Forest on Thursday evening, June 21; the site will be announced within the week. I have asked members of the Illinois Environmental Council to serve as a panel of experts to directly address the issue of the effects of transportation on the environment. I hope you or members of your staff might be able to join us.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie A. Morrison".

Julie A. Morrison  
State Senator, 29th District