

Dear Senator / Representative X

I am writing to bring your attention to an issue in Bay Head, NJ where our local wildlife habitat is under threat of pollution from planned construction of a substation by NJ Transit.

The project has been planned for some time, but NJ Transit chose to only provide details to the local council and public 3 weeks prior to construction starting, thus attempting to prevent any public discourse or objections.

The site is immediately adjacent to, and encroaching on, a wetland area containing numerous species, some of which are endangered.

Upon closer inspection of the plans it is clear that NJ Transit is in breach of an agreement they signed several years ago not to fuel any equipment or store diesel fuel at this location.

Their plans to build within environmental protection requirements are based on old standards and they fail to meet the current regulations. All pollutant leakage into Twilight Lake will eventually make its way into Barnegat Bay and potentially impact significant stretches of coastline.

This plan creates significant risk and will almost certainly cause harm to some of the many waterfowl and bird species in Twilight Lake.

In addition they plan to run extremely high voltage overhead lines immediately adjacent to a residential neighborhood, with complete disregard for the risks posed to residents' lives should line damage occur in the event of a storm.

On top of all this the basis of this project is misleading as the local rail service does not require wayside power or power from the substation *and so the whole project is in fact unnecessary.*

The deceitful manner with which NJ Transit has proceeded is an indication that they are aware their plans are potentially harmful to both local wildlife, water and residents. They are merely trying to push their project through before proper environmental studies can be performed. I am sure the EPA would take a very dim view of their actions.

Bay Head's council, led by Mayor Curtis has requested a public hearing but as yet NJ Transit appear determined to run roughshod over the will of the town's population.

Please find attached details NJ Transit has provided for their plans – as you will see much of what they describe is vague, particularly with respect to the environmental issues.

In addition a list of residents' concerns are attached. A further more comprehensive document will be available soon; it is being prepared by an engineer and points out a number of contradictions in their plan as well as categorically refuting a number of their claims.

As you can imagine your constituents are very upset. We therefore request that you contact NJ Transit – their CEO is Kevin S. Corbett and the central number is **(973) 275-5555** to get to the bottom of this action – why they are ignoring environmental standards, previous legal agreements to push forward with a project that their rationale fails too justify as even necessary.

Here are some contacts:

Senator Robert Menendez
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202.224.4744

Senator Cory Booker
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3224

Congressman Chris Smith
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
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For the 2020–2021 session ([Senate](#), [General Assembly](#)), the [10th Legislative District](#) of the [New Jersey Legislature](#) is represented in the [State Senate](#) by [James W. Holzapfel](#) (R, [Toms River](#)) and in the [General Assembly](#) by [John Catalano](#) (R, [Brick Township](#)) and [Gregory P. McGuckin](#) (R, Toms River).^{[\[59\]\[60\]](#)}