

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 6, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to express our strong opposition to your administration's decision to continue to withhold congressionally appropriated funds to the Hudson Tunnel Project. As you know, effective February 6, 2026, the project funding will lapse, and work will come to a stop at construction sites in New Jersey and New York. Your reckless and illegal actions will result in approximately 1,000 union workers losing their jobs and a substantial negative impact to the United States' economy.

In New Jersey, members of the International Union of Operating Engineers, the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (Carpenters), the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters will lose their jobs because of the work stoppage you will cause should funding not be released. These are industrious, working-class American men and women whose labor serves as the backbone of our nation; and on this project, their work will strengthen our nation's economy and more efficiently move the hundreds of thousands of commuters who rely on a functioning Northeast Corridor every day.

In addition to the devastating consequences for working families throughout New Jersey and New York who will now go without a paycheck, delaying this project is a substantial waste of federal funds and a blow to our economy. Every day that this freeze continues, project costs go up, millions of dollars in taxpayer money is wasted on maintaining idle construction sites, and tens of thousands of additional jobs are threatened.

As you know, construction on the Hudson Tunnel Project is already underway at five sites in New York and New Jersey, including boring through a cliff in North Bergen, New Jersey, and under the Hudson River. The Hudson Tunnel Project is part of the Northeast Corridor's broader Gateway Program—a series of 11 rail projects designed to improve current service and create new capacity. The current 115-year-old tunnels, which carry hundreds of thousands of passengers every day on Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT trains, were severely damaged by Hurricane Sandy and are crumbling.

If one or both tunnels need to be closed for emergency repair, because of your administration's obstruction, this transportation crisis would cost our economy \$100 million per day and paralyze travel throughout the entire corridor. This is an essential project for our economic competitiveness on the global stage and the safety of tens of millions of rail passengers that navigate the Northeast Corridor each year.

We respectfully ask that you visit the region and meet directly with the laid off workers, along with leadership from both the local and national unions such as LIUNA, the Teamsters, the Ironworkers, the Carpenters, IBEW, and the International Union of Operating Engineers, to address the immediate job losses and the broader threat to our nation's economy your refusal to release these critical funds has caused.

After years of progress advancing this project and finalizing congressionally appropriated funds that are guaranteed by signed agreements, the unions and their members deserve an explanation and justification of your administration's decision to continue to paralyze progress on this critical project. Given the dire consequences for the American people, we urge you to promptly respond to this request.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress