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Dear Friends:

I hope you have a productive meeting tonight. I am sorry I was unable to join you. The advancement of commuter rail service in New Hampshire is an important topic, and I am glad to know so many people are interested and working on this issue. As our state continues to rapidly grow, we must ensure we have a strong, and diverse, transportation infrastructure in place.

We have taken a number of steps at the state level to move this issue forward. In 2006 I established a passenger rail working group to begin plans for the development of rail services. The recommendations of that group resulted in Senate Bill 75 during the 2007 legislative session creating the New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority. The Authority Board members, chaired by Senator Peter Burling, have enthusiastically taken on their task this year. I recently signed House Bill 1404, relative to liability insurance for passenger rail service. This bill was another critical step forward towards making passenger rail in New Hampshire a reality.

Re-establishing rail in New Hampshire is critical to our future economic growth as a state. It will help reduce congestion on our roads – improving public safety and reducing air pollution. It will help improve the quality of life of our citizens here in New Hampshire and the quality of life, and transportation networks, of our entire region.

Thank you again for your interest and efforts on this essential topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John H. Lynch".

John H. Lynch