

Rochester, NY – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today released the following statement in response to calls by Congressman Tom Reed (NY-29) and Ann Marie Buerkle (NY-25) to abandon plans for high-speed rail in Upstate New York.

“High-speed rail in Upstate New York is a vital component for economic revitalization in our region. The United States Conference of Mayors estimates at least 21,000 new jobs and \$1.1 billion in new wages in New York alone from the realization of a high-speed rail network. Those who want to abandon high-speed rail in New York are also abandoning thousands of new jobs and economic opportunities for Upstate New Yorkers.”

“Establishing a high-speed rail line would not be disruptive to freight traffic. To the contrary, a dedicated track for high-speed rail would allow freight additional track to operate unimpeded by passenger travel. In so doing, we will create an economic development corridor, from Albany down to New York City and up to Montreal where it will connect to Toronto and back down through Niagara Falls, creating one of the largest international trade corridors and helping to spur much needed economic growth.

“High-speed rail in Upstate New York will provide faster, frequent and reliable service between our major cities, while promoting the state’s competitive position in the global economy. I fully expect to continue our efforts with Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Governor Cuomo to make high-speed rail a reality in New York. So to those that may think high-speed rail is a stalled project in New York, I would say we’re moving forward and are excited to continue doing so.”