

"If you think we are giving up that easily you got another thing coming"

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee and Co-chair of the Bicameral High-Speed & Intercity Passenger Rail Caucus, today assured continued development of high-speed rail in Upstate New York despite misguided spending legislation that will eliminate high-speed rail funding in the Department of Transportation budget next year.

"If you think we are giving up that easily you got another thing coming," said Slaughter. "This was a terrible choice, but I think it's vitally important to point out that this doesn't affect funding already received by New York State. High-speed rail is essential to preparing the Upstate economy for the 21st century and I remain committed to it. There an opportunity for New York to apply for funding from the TIGER program, which received \$500 million in this bill, that I know New York will be able to benefit from. Thankfully, the bill spared funding for Amtrak which just reported a record number of riders in New York and across the country. And we're excited to get shovels in the ground in Albany this spring to relieve the problem of having only a single track."

She added, "I'm terribly disappointed that this misguided proposition was attached to a bill that must pass to keep the government open and functioning. It's scandalous that we bring the federal government to the brink of collapse as often as we do."

[In September](#) , Slaughter announced that the long-awaited double track project in between Albany and Schenectady will begin construction in the spring finally relieving congestion and reducing travel time for rail passengers across the Empire Corridor.

Today on the House floor Slaughter spoke out against the cuts to high-speed rail during a floor debate on the funding measure. She said,

"High-speed and inter-city passenger rail, for example, receives no dedicated funding under this agreement. This bill allows our country to maintain Amtrak in its current state, but does nothing to help us keep pace with countries like China and Germany, who have already built a rail

infrastructure that will expand their economies in the 21st Century. If our country is to remain a global superpower in the 21st Century, we must do more to invest in our country than the meager steps we are taking today."

Video of her statement is [available here](#) .

To date, New York State has received \$456,509,068 that will make track improvements across Upstate, make vital improvements to stations in Rochester and Buffalo, make long-awaited improvements to unscrew the bottleneck in Albany and begin the planning and construction of high-speed rail in Upstate New York.

In 2009, she founded the Upstate Congressional Caucus and last May founded the [Bicameral High-Speed & Intercity Passenger Rail Caucus](#)

, a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers that serves as the leading voice for high-speed and passenger rail program funding. For more Slaughter's work to bring high-speed rail to Upstate New York,

[click here](#)

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