

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2014

James T. Smith Jr.
Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover MD 21076

Dear Secretary Smith,

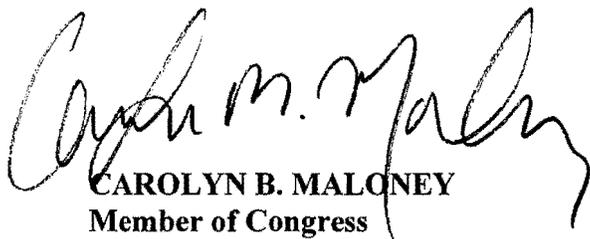
We write to you regarding the recent decision by the Maryland Department of Transportation to select Keolis as a finalist in the bid for the proposed Purple Line Light Rail extension. Keolis' majority owner is Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français (SNCF) France's national rail company that has yet to provide restitution to tens of thousands of holocaust victims for its role in willingly collaborating with the Nazis during World War II. While we believe the proposed Purple Line is an exciting new private-public partnership venture for Maryland, Keolis, as a part of SNCF, should be reevaluated as a finalist for the 35-year contract.

During World War II, more than 76,000 Jews and thousands of other "undesirables," including U.S. pilots shot down over France, were transported from France toward Nazi death camps aboard trains operated by SNCF. The rail company collaborated with the Nazis, operating the trains as a commercial venture, and was paid per head, per kilometer to deliver tens of thousands to their deaths. However, the company has yet to pay reparations to its victims.

If awarded, the State of Maryland's contract with SNCF for the Purple Line may be paid out of the very pockets of taxpayers who the company once willingly transported to the death camps. While we look forward to the innovative Purple Line, we do not believe that it should be done through the partnership of Keolis as an entity of SNCF until its victims are awarded their long overdue justice.

We urge the Maryland Department of Transportation to take into consideration the relationship between Keolis and SNCF as it reviews finalists for the Purple Line, and to not ignore its moral obligation to the Holocaust survivors who proudly call Maryland home.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress