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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From the Office of  
U.S. Representative John E. Fogarty  
Second Congressional District, R. I.

REPRESENTATIVE FOGARTY WILL OPPOSE MOVE  
BY NEW HAVEN TO ABANDON PASSENGER TRAIN

Representative John E. Fogarty (D-R.I.) announced today in Washington that he intends to do "everything in my power" to prevent the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad from discontinuing Train 508 which has carried morning commuters into Providence from the southeastern areas of Rhode Island for more than 70 years.

Fogarty, in a statement issued by his office, said that he has written to the Interstate Commerce Commission to protest the New Haven's application to abandon this train, which the carrier's management announced on Monday it would discontinue on October 21. He also said that he is introducing legislation to repeal the Amendment to the Interstate Commerce Act which Congress enacted in 1958 which now gives the Interstate Commerce Commission the power to determine the fate of this passenger train.

"I have also asked the Interstate Commerce Commission not only to schedule hearings upon the need for this train in the various communities of Rhode Island which will be adversely

affected, but I have made clear that I want time to testify in person at one of them," Fogarty said.

In his letter to the Interstate Commerce Commission, Fogarty pointed out that the New Haven Railroad has already received loans guaranteed by the federal government for a total amount of \$35,659,400. Of this amount, \$12,500,000 have been approved while the railroad has been under the management of the present trustees.

"To date, the Federal government has had to pay \$14,700,000 because this railroad defaulted on obligations which were guaranteed as the result of the ICC's approval," Fogarty pointed out. "Yet, despite this vast amount of federal aid, the railroad today is seeking to eliminate service by a train which is needed by hundreds of people as a basic means of transportation on the very weak claim that this train is allegedly losing \$48,000 a year."

Fogarty said that he is "skeptical" about the bookkeeping which went into "trying to show that this train is operating at a loss." He pointed out that in most applications by railroads to abandon passenger trains, the figures on what the operation is costing usually include overhead and maintenance costs which would continue even after the train is abandoned.

"I do not know that this is the case in this instance because I have not yet been furnished with a full copy of the application, but you may be certain that I intend to subject the railroad's claims of alleged losses on this operation to the most careful scrutiny," Fogarty said. "I have asked the ICC to furnish me with a copy of the railroad's application and I will use all my powers as a member of Congress to see that the public is given the necessary facts concerning this application."

A copy of Fogarty's letter to ICC Chairman Walrath is attached.