

Chris Christie, Governor  
Kim Guadagno, Lieutenant Governor  
Jamie Fox, Board Chairman  
Veronique Hakim, Executive Director



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January 30, 2015

## **AN OPEN LETTER TO UTU AND BLE MEMBERS:**

We just finished another difficult week, persevering through the worst Mother Nature had to throw at us. While the weather forecasters may have gotten it wrong, we got it right.

First, we shut down service to protect our employees and customers from harm's way and then started up again in a matter of few short hours once the storm had subsided.

Thanks to your professionalism and quick response, as well as the efforts of your colleagues in the Mechanical and Infrastructure Engineering Departments, we were able to restart service on all but two NJ TRANSIT rail lines. Our customers, Executive Director Hakim and Governor Christie all expressed their appreciation for a job well done. And newspaper and television coverage was also largely positive.

Unfortunately, there was brief mention that we did not operate service on our Montclair-Boonton Line and Gladstone Line due to "crew availability". In our haste to get the message out about train service, this short message was misinterpreted by some to mean the UTU and BLE members were not available for work. This was clearly not the case.

While we wanted to restore service on every line immediately, we also needed to plan for the Wednesday morning rush hour when customers would return to work, expecting full weekday service. We elected to use available train crews to reposition equipment for the following service day rather than run a limited weekend schedule on these lines.

This was clearly the correct decision for a vast majority of our customers. Thanks to your efforts, we provide service on most lines and were ready to operate full weekday service on Wednesday morning.

I am proud of what WE accomplished together. I am committed to making sure others hear about our proud tradition of teamwork and accomplishment.

Please remember to stay safe out there!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angel L. Soto".

Angel L. Soto  
DGM – Rail Operations