

July 12, 2012

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington DC 20510-6275

Sent electronically to:
Halley Ross, Hearing Clerk

Dear Chairman Leahy:

I write in response to the written questions sent to me following my June 20, 2012 testimony before the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary in support of S. 634, the Holocaust Rail Justice Act.

In response to the question concerning the Maryland law requiring SNCF to open up its archives, digitize its records, post these records on-line, and provide a written statement of property taken, individuals deported, and reparations paid, I attach a written letter recently sent to the Maryland State Archivist. As noted in this letter, the Maryland State Archivist is responsible for overseeing and ultimately making a determination on SNCF's compliance with the law.

The letter, signed by me and the two Committee Chairs of Jurisdiction, Senator Joan Carter Conway of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs and Delegate Pete Hammen of the Health and Government Operations Committee, raises serious concerns about the independence, as required by the law, of the historian hired by SNCF and approved by the State Archivist. Additionally, this letter addresses SNCF's failure to provide, as required by the law, a written statement summarizing property taken, individuals deported, and any reparations paid.

Given the serious issues now raised with respect to SNCF's purported compliance with the statute's requirements, it is impossible at this time to more fully address the two specific subparts of Question 1. However, if the Committee should so desire, I would be pleased to keep the Committee apprised of any further relevant developments. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this question.

Sincerely,

Samuel I. "Sandy" Rosenberg
Delegate