

The Hon. Marc Garneau  
Transport Minister  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

**Subject: Support Bill C-322: Improve active transportation and the safety of citizens**

Dear Minister Garneau,

I am contacting you today with regard to the urgent need to improve the safety and mobility of Canadians. As you know, railways across Canada can limit access to strategic locations. And when there is no legal possibility of crossing rails without long detours, many people will cross tracks illegally, putting themselves at risk.

In some communities, pedestrians and cyclists are forced to make detours almost a kilometre long to reach a destination only a few metres away. This is happening in Montreal, where there are several hundred occurrences of trespassing a day in some areas. Elsewhere, neighborhoods are practically isolated or bisected by railways. This worries me. Ensuring the mobility and safety of citizens is essential.

For years, citizens' groups, businesses and municipalities have been asking for level crossings at strategic locations. Unfortunately, the railway companies, which have the power to prevent new level crossings, are not always responsive to the needs of the public. They often explain their inaction by warning of potential risks. Yet we know that trespassing accidents are twice as frequent as crossing-related ones. And, as we have seen in a number of places in Canada, it is entirely possible to have level crossings—including pedestrian and bicycle crossings—that meet the operational needs of railway companies while ensuring the safety of citizens.

That is why I am asking you to support Bill C-322, sponsored by H el ene Laverdi ere. This enactment will clarify your authority under the *Railway Safety Act*, and will enable you to take concrete action. I hope you will take this opportunity to enable thousands of people to travel safely. Let's not wait for an accident to happen; instead, we should take action to prevent injuries or even death.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

NAME