## Dear [Name],

As a [Job Title] at [Academic Institution], I am writing to express my strong support for Governor Shapiro’s funding proposal for SEPTA. Implementing this funding solution for SEPTA is essential for supporting student accessibility, enhancing campus sustainability, and fostering community engagement.

This funding plan is crucial for ensuring that students have reliable and affordable transportation to and from school. This accessibility is vital for academic success, allowing students to attend classes, participate in extracurricular activities, and access essential resources without transportation barriers.

Investing in SEPTA also helps our region’s higher-educational institutions like mine, attract bright young minds to the region. We constantly look for ways to set ourselves apart from our competitors, and an affordable and efficient public transit system allows our students to easily get to and from classes while also providing them with a reliable way to explore and enjoy everything else that our region has to offer.

Furthermore, a fully-funded SEPTA system fosters greater community engagement by connecting students, faculty, and staff with the surrounding community. Reliable public transit encourages participation in local events, internships, and service opportunities, enriching the educational experience and strengthening community ties.

Unfortunately, SEPTA recently announced the drastic cuts they will need to make if additional funding is not secured. In addition to across-the-board fare increases of 21.5%, SEPTA will be forced to eliminate 32 bus routes, while shortening or reducing service to an additional 75. This summer, SEPTA will need to cut service to 13 regional rail lines, and if funding isn’t received soon enough, some of these lines, including the Paoli/Thorndale, Wilmington/Newark, Trenton, Chestnut Hill West, and Cynwyd lines, will be eliminated entirely.

As the Philadelphia region continues to recover from the pandemic while now grappling with an increasingly uncertain economic future, cutting SEPTA service will not only harm this region, but our entire commonwealth. SEPTA has never been cleaner, safer or more responsible with its budget. We cannot attract and retain students to our institutions without a robust public transit system.

I urge you to support this funding solution for SEPTA. The benefits of a well-funded transit system have far-reaching effects, impacting student success, environmental sustainability, and community engagement. I look forward to following what you and your colleagues do to ensure that SEPTA continues to serve as a vital resource for our academic institution and our region.

Sincerely, [Your Name]