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Secretary, **Karen Songhurst**, Vermont AOT

*States for*  
[www.s4prc.org](http://www.s4prc.org)



February 4, 2016

Mr. Anthony R. Coscia  
Chairman of the Board  
National Railroad Passenger Corporation  
60 Massachusetts Avenue, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Re: Selection of Amtrak President and Chief Executive Officer

Dear Chairman Coscia and members of the Amtrak Board of Directors:

On behalf of the members of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc. (SPRC) I respectfully request an opportunity to work directly with the Board's search committee as it engages in the process of selecting the next Amtrak President and Chief Executive Officer.

SPRC recognizes that it will be no easy task to find and select the right leader. Amtrak's President must have the experience, knowledge, vision and determination to address the many challenges that lie ahead; the ability to remain focused on safety, security and reliability; and the courage to make the tough decisions necessary to take Amtrak forward as the nation's premier passenger railroad. A leader with a national strategy to improve customer service, increase ridership, and grow the business in a tough economic climate is most important for the success of not only Amtrak, but intercity passenger rail as a whole.

Our members support the national intercity passenger rail network and sponsor 30 intercity passenger routes serving 296 communities across America. During federal fiscal year 2015, our State-supported trains carried almost 15 million passengers, representing 48% of Amtrak's total ridership. We also contributed \$712 million in revenues to Amtrak through \$489 million in passenger revenues plus \$223 million in service contract payments.

SPRC members also partner with the USDOT and host freight railroads to make critical investments in rail safety and capacity, stations, and other network improvements to help ensure effective, reliable and efficient freight and intercity passenger services.

In addition to a wealth of experience, SPRC members share enthusiasm and a strong commitment to improving intercity passenger rail travel in the US. I believe our insight, thoughts, and counsel would be a valuable resource to the Amtrak Board's search committee.

At your convenience, please feel free to contact me at [patricia@NNEPRA.com](mailto:patricia@NNEPRA.com) or (207) 780-1000 x 105, for a discussion on how we can best provide our input into this crucial process.

Sincerely,

Patricia Quinn  
Chair, States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc.  
Executive Director, Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority

attachment:

cc: Members, Amtrak Board of Directors:  
Members, States for Passenger Rail Coalition

California  
Connecticut  
Illinois  
Indiana  
Iowa  
Louisiana  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
Maine  
Michigan  
Minnesota  
Missouri  
Nevada  
New York  
North Carolina  
Oklahoma  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania  
Texas  
Vermont  
Virginia  
Washington  
Wisconsin  
Capital Corridor  
Joint Powers  
Authority  
Northern  
New England  
Passenger  
Rail Authority

The States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc. (SPRC) is a private non-profit organization comprised of 22 state departments of transportation and 2 passenger rail authorities.

SPRC promotes the development, implementation, and expansion of intercity passenger rail services. In order to accomplish this purpose the SPRC:

- Promotes current and long-range plans for intercity passenger rail throughout the United States;
- Facilitates coordination and cooperation among state and agency officials and between the public and private sectors in order to promote and develop intercity passenger rail services;
- Advocates for, and assists in, the pursuit of state and federal funding to support further development and improvement of America's passenger rail system; and
- Supports current efforts and projects managed by state transportation departments and designated local authorities.

SPRC members supported intercity passenger rail services consist of the following routes:

Pacific Surfliner	Chicago-St. Louis (Lincoln Service)	Piedmont
Capitol Corridor	Hiawatha	Keystone
San Joaquin	Wolverine	Pennsylvanian
Vermont	Chicago-Carbondale (Illini/Saluki)	Ethan Allen
New Haven-Springfield	Chicago-Quincy (IL Zephyr/Carl Sandburg)	Albany-Niagara Falls-Toronto
Washington-Lynchburg	Blue Water	Empire (NYP-ALB)
Washington-Newport News	Hoosier State	Adirondack
Washington-Norfolk	Pere Marquette	Heartland Flyer
Washington-Richmond	Downeaster	Cascades
Carolinian	Kansas City-St. Louis (MO River Runner)	Maple Leaf