

Chair, **Paul Worley**, North Carolina DOT  
Vice Chair, **David Kutrosky**, CCJPA  
Treasurer, **Venetta Keefe**, Indiana DOT  
Secretary, **Karen Songhurst**, Vermont AOT

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



**Via Email**

May 17, 2017

Senator Susan Collins

Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Senate Dirkson Building, Room 142  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Jack Reed

Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Senate Dirkson Building, Room 142  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Collins and Reed:

The States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc. (SPRC) is an advocacy group comprised of State departments of transportation and passenger rail authority leaders from across the nation who work together to support the development and growth of passenger rail service throughout the United States.

Established in January 2000, the SPRC currently has members representing the States of California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. Additional members include the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority, the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency, the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority, and the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority.

Our 25 members sponsor a combined 30 intercity passenger rail (ICPR) routes serving 296 communities across America, with two States also connecting to Canada. Last year our trains carried almost 15 million passengers, representing 48% of Amtrak's total ridership. We also contributed \$786 million in revenues to Amtrak, through \$565 million in passenger revenues plus \$223 million in contract payments.

As ICPR sponsors, our members are steadfastly committed to safety, service quality, and reliability. Safety is paramount to our services and we are committed to ensuring it for all passengers, employees, host railroads, and the communities we serve. National safety statistics show that passengers and rail employees are safer on intercity trains than any other mode of transportation. We believe that a strong and reliable national system approach to intercity passenger rail is critical to ensuring safety and mobility for all, and applaud your recognition of this through your funding and legislative directives.

On behalf of all SPRC members, I would like to thank you for your leadership in providing funding for the passenger rail programs authorized in the FAST Act, and appropriated in the

*California*

*Connecticut*

*Illinois*

*Indiana*

*Iowa*

*Louisiana*

*Massachusetts*

*Maine*

*Michigan*

*Minnesota*

*Missouri*

*Nevada*

*New York*

*North Carolina*

*Oklahoma*

*Oregon*

*Pennsylvania*

*Vermont*

*Virginia*

*Washington*

*Wisconsin*

*Capitol Corridor  
Joint Powers  
Authority*

*Northern  
New England  
Passenger  
Rail Authority*

*LOSSAN Joint Powers  
Authority*

*San Joaquin Joint  
Powers Authority*

FFY 2017 Omnibus Act. SPRC members look forward to competing for funding under the programs for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements, Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair, and the Restoration and Enhancement Grants. We are also most appreciative of your successful efforts to include ongoing funding for the work of the State-Supported Route Committee, the Gulf Coast Rail Service Working Group, the Southeast Corridor and the multi-modal National Infrastructure Investment or "TIGER" program.

In concert with the work of the Subcommittee, we invite you to visit any of our systems across America, to experience personally the benefits of intercity passenger rail service that are the result of funding you have provided. SPRC members would be more than happy to arrange visits, facility tours, or other opportunities to experience the fastest growing segment of the passenger rail business.

Again, thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,



Paul C. Worley, CPM  
Chair, the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc.  
Rail Division Director  
North Carolina Department of Transportation