



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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Jim Doyle
Governor

Frank J. Busalacchi
Secretary

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The Honorable Richard Durbin
Majority Whip
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Byron Dorgan
Chairman
Democratic Policy Committee
322 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Durbin and Dorgan:

On behalf of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition I would like to thank you for your continued support for intercity passenger rail. Due to your strong efforts and guidance, and the President's leadership, we are beginning work on a national intercity passenger rail system. The award of nearly \$8 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds is an exciting start to the effort.

One of the critical discoveries in the project selection process was the pent up demand for ARRA funds from the states, with requests far exceeding the funds available. This is not surprising since states have long recognized the importance of passenger rail in our transportation network. We believe that the infusion of additional funds at this time is needed. Four areas that we would identify include the following:

1. Initial deployments of positive train control strategies are underway. Safety is always the highest priority and it makes good sense to address positive train control as states are working on their projects.
2. We can achieve even greater economies of scale if we made a special call for equipment, including bi-level and single level coaches in particular.
3. Many states make an extra effort to work with host freight railroads and will put railroad workers back on the job.
4. Work to identify and accelerate projects that can demonstrate "green initiatives." All of our projects will achieve measureable and significant energy and environmental benefits, but it may be useful to highlight projects to demonstrate these benefits.

We believe that the additional funds can be spent promptly, create jobs now and in the future, and accelerate the development of a true national intercity passenger rail system. As you finish your assessment of what must be included in the Senate's Jobs Bill, I hope that you will look to further investments in our nation's passenger rail network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank J. Busalacchi".

Frank J. Busalacchi
Chair, States for Passenger Rail Coalition
Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Transportation