



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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Jim Doyle
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Secretary

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The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
133 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
123 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Bond:

On behalf of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, I am pleased to share with you the views of our member states on rail transportation investment in FFY 2010. First, let me say that as a state official, I completely empathize with the challenges you face – an abundance of worthwhile programs and projects and a scarcity of financial resources.

The States for Passenger Rail Coalition is grateful to the Senate Appropriations Committee for its generous investment in Amtrak, high-speed rail, and intercity passenger rail in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The states are working collaboratively with one another, with the Federal Railroad Administration, with Amtrak, and with a broad array of other groups to achieve the goals of ARRA. We are confident that we will not only meet those goals, but we will exceed them.

ARRA funding serves as the down payment on a national intercity passenger rail system. We fully support President Obama's request for \$1 billion in intercity passenger rail funds in FFY 2010. We believe the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA) provides an appropriate authorizing framework. There is substantial, nationwide support for investment in intercity passenger rail. The Coalition urges your support for the following:

- Fund Amtrak capital and operating expenses at the fully authorized level.
- Fund intercity passenger rail as authorized in Division B, Title III, Sections 305 and 306: Next Generation Corridor Train Equipment and Rail Cooperative Research Program.
- Fully fund the \$50 million authorized for Railroad Safety Technology Grants to railroads for the deployment of train control technologies, train control component technologies, processor-based technologies and other new safety technologies, with the intent that this program will help fund implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC).

These investments will accelerate the development and deployment of a modern intercity passenger rail system.

Finally, I must commend you for your continued interest and leadership in the development of a National Rail System Plan. Such a plan is essential to protect the public investment in intercity passenger rail. It is our strong desire to continue our conversations with you on this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Busalacchi
Chair, States for Passenger Rail Coalition
Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Member, National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission