



State Rail Coalition Marks Celebration of National Train Day

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WASHINGTON, DC – States for Passenger Rail Coalition Chairman and Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Frank Busalacchi today applauded the 3rd annual celebration of National Train Day on May 8, 2010.

“National Train Day is an important opportunity to mark the valuable role trains play in our national transportation system,” Busalacchi said. “Passenger trains are widely regarded as an efficient way to move people in all parts of America. Trains are energy-efficient, pollute less than other transportation modes, and help ease highway and airline congestion.”

Busalacchi noted the demand for passenger rail is growing with people boarding trains in record numbers. Amtrak recently announced it is on pace to break its annual ridership record carrying over 13.6 million passengers during the first six months of fiscal year 2010 with the busy summer travel season still ahead.

“While we celebrate National Train Day, we must also remember that the future of passenger rail service in America depends on stable and strong funding from Washington,” Busalacchi said. “President Obama and Congressional leaders have made great progress in stepping up the federal commitment to passenger rail. The challenge now is to make sure that commitment continues into the future.”

Busalacchi said the members of the States of Passenger Rail Coalition, representing transportation agencies in 31 states, will continue their bi-partisan effort to support intercity passenger rail initiatives and work to achieve sustained and dedicated funding for projects.

National Train Day commemorates the day the “golden spike” was driven into the final railroad tie that joined 1,776 miles of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railways, creating the nation’s first transcontinental railroad. That spike was driven in 1869 in Promontory Summit, Utah.

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