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States for
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April 8, 2015

Ms. Dena Baron, Clerk
Committee on Appropriations
US House of Representatives
Capitol Building, H-218
Washington, DC 20515

Via email to: Dena.Baron@mail.house.gov

Re: USDOT 2016 Appropriation
Rail Line Relocation & Improvement Capital Grant Program (RLR)

Dear Ms. Brown:

The States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc., (SPRC) is comprised of state leaders from across the United States. The Coalition's mission is to promote the research, development, implementation, operation, sustainability, and expansion of publicly-supported intercity passenger rail services. On behalf of its membership of 23 state departments of transportation and 2 passenger rail authorities, SPRC advocates for ongoing federal funding and support for intercity passenger rail initiatives.

Today, on behalf of SPRC, I write to request that the Committee make an appropriation of at least \$300 million for the Rail Line Relocation & Improvement Capital Grant Program (RLR) under Section 9002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The funds would be administered by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and would be used to help reroute railroads away from densely populated urban areas and to strengthen grade crossing safety, especially as related to the movement of energy trains.

In 2014 our members sponsored intercity passenger rail services comprising 48% of America's intercity passenger rail traffic. In addition to sponsoring intercity passenger rail services, SPRC members work closely with the freight railroads to implement capacity and safety improvements to ensure more efficient and effective freight and intercity passenger rail services. SPRC members partner with the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to manage the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)-sponsored highway-railroad crossing safety program, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)-sponsored State Safety Oversight Program, and the FRA-certified State Rail Safety Programs. SPRC members are also active in local Operation Lifesaver Rail Safety Education Programs.

Please feel free to contact me if I may provide additional information, or answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Patricia Quinn
Chair

California
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Missouri
Nevada
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