

Chair, **Patricia Quinn**, NNEPRA
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States for
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June 3, 2015

Senator John Thune, Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 511
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Bill Nelson, Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 716
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson:

On behalf of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc., (SPRC), I write in support of the confirmation of Sarah Feinberg as Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT).

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 22 state departments of transportation and 2 passenger rail authorities, SPRC advocates for ongoing federal funding and support for intercity passenger rail initiatives.

During the short time in which she has served as Acting Administrator, Ms. Feinberg has demonstrated the ability to listen, learn, communicate effectively, and engage with the many, and varied elements of the railroad industry. She has shown a keen awareness of the many challenges facing the nation's complex, multi-jurisdictional rail system, and she also understands the role of the States in promoting the development of a safe, reliable and efficient national network of freight and passenger rail services.

We ask that the Committee act speedily to confirm Ms. Feinberg. The issues facing the railroad industry today are significant, and it is vital that we have a capable and dedicated leader who is willing to partner with the states to make the improvements necessary to build a national rail system with an emphasis on increasing mobility and reliability, while enhancing safety and security now and in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Patricia Quinn, Chair
States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc.

cc: Sarah Feinberg, Acting Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration

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