

Chair, **Patricia Quinn**, NNEPRA
Vice Chair, **David Kutrosky**, CCJPA
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States for
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August 4, 2015

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Highways and Transit Subcommittee
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
Ranking Member
Highways and Transit Subcommittee
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Highway-Railway Crossing Safety and Operation Lifesaver Funding

Dear Members:

The States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc. (SPRC), is comprised of state leaders from across the United States. The SPRC'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 continue its strong support for both the "Section 130" highway-railroad crossing safety program, as well as for Operation Lifesaver. Both of these programs help improve transportation safety for passenger and freight services. Moreover, these programs can have a near term, positive impact on safety associated with energy transport.

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 Association of American Railroads (AAR) and their members to implement capacity and safety improvements that help ensure more efficient and effective freight and intercity passenger rail services. SPRC members partner with the United States Department of Transportation to manage the Federal Highway Administration-sponsored highway-railroad crossing safety program, the Federal Transit Administration-sponsored State Safety Oversight Program, and the Federal Railroad Administration-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

cc: Joyce Rose, Operation Lifesaver
Shayne Gill, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
Jennifer Macdonald, Association of American Railroads

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