

Chair, **Patricia Quinn**, NNEPRA
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States for
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September 16, 2016

Senator Susan Collins, Chair
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
US Senate
Washington, DC, 20510

Senator Jack Reed, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC, 20510

Representative Mario Diaz-Balart, Chair
Subcommittee of Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC, 20510

Representative David E. Price, Ranking Member
Subcommittee of Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Senators Collins and Reed and Representatives Diaz-Balart and Price:

On behalf of the members of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc. (SPRC), I am writing to urge you to include language to allow the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to execute appropriations for Amtrak under a Continuing Resolution (CR) in the new budget account structure as provided by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act - division A of Public Law 114-94), and subsequently adopted in the Federal Fiscal Year FFY 2017 House Appropriations sub-committee-reported, and Senate-passed bills.

The language is critical and necessary to support the implementation of other provisions of the FAST Act related to Amtrak services on State-Supported routes.

SPRC state members sponsor 29 - intercity passenger rail routes serving 296 communities across America. Last year our trains carried almost 15 million passengers, representing 48% of Amtrak's total ridership. In FFY2015, we also contributed \$711 million in revenues to Amtrak, through \$489 million in passenger revenues plus \$222 million in contract payments, representing approximately 35% of Amtrak's total revenues.

SPRC both supports the FAST Act and greatly appreciates the efforts of your subcommittees to provide much needed investment in intercity passenger rail.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Patricia Quinn
Chair, States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc.
Executive Director, Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority

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