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States for
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February 26, 2015

Ms. Sarah Feinberg, Acting Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) consideration of States as Railroads

Dear Acting Administrator Feinberg,

I am writing to express how concerned our members are about the information presented last week that the FRA plans to “open a docket and a 60-day comment period” regarding the issue of designating entities that contract for intercity passenger rail services as a “railroad.”

As was mentioned during our meeting last month, such a designation would significantly alter our State Departments of Transportation and state-created authorities who contract for services.

States remain committed to the safety of our rail system, and State-supported routes represent nearly half of all intercity passenger rail riders in our nation. It is therefore our expectation that a less formal, more collaborative dialogue be opened between the States and FRA on this subject in advance of a draft policy publication in the *Federal Register*. State representatives are anxious to meet with you at your earliest convenience in Washington, DC to discuss this issue further. Please provide some potential dates and times for our consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia Quinn, Chair
States for Passenger Rail Coalition

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Iowa
Louisiana
Maryland
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Maine
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nevada
New York
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