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*Bringing Together  
 State Leaders from  
 Across the Region  
 to Advocate  
 for Passenger Rail  
 Improvements*

The Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission is a nine-state interstate compact commission that promotes, coordinates and supports regional improvements to passenger rail service. Our member states include Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

March 11, 2015

Commissioner Karl Browning, Indiana Department of Transportation  
 (Transmitted via e-mail: [Karl.Browning@indot.in.gov](mailto:Karl.Browning@indot.in.gov))

Acting Administrator Sarah Feinberg, Federal Railroad Administration  
 (Transmitted via e-mail: [Sarah.Feinberg@dot.gov](mailto:Sarah.Feinberg@dot.gov))

Dear Commissioner Browning and Administrator Feinberg,

It has been brought to our attention that the parties (FRA and INDOT) that are seeking to resolve issues surrounding the continuance of the *Hoosier State* service are meeting later today.

If an immediate resolution cannot be worked out to allow Indiana to commence its new service agreement with Amtrak and Iowa Pacific Holdings in April, we ask that both parties consider allowing another short-term extension of INDOT's current contract with Amtrak for the *Hoosier State* service. This would provide some "breathing room" to ensure both that any pending safety issues are resolved and that further conversations can be held between the FRA and **all** affected states on the question of whether states must become "railroads of record".

The implications of PRIIA Section 209, in requiring states to fully subsidize passenger rail service on routes less than 750 miles by Oct 1, 2013, has brought forward a number of issues that states and the other affected parties are still working out. The Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC) highly esteems Indiana's and other states in the region's decision to continue their passenger rail service on shorter-distance routes, service that provides critically important transportation options to many in our states, the region and the nation.

MIPRC is a nine-state compact commission that promotes, coordinates and supports regional improvements to passenger rail service. One of MIPRC's core responsibilities is to work with the public and private sectors at the federal, state and local levels to ensure coordination among the various entities having an interest in passenger rail service and to promote Midwestern interests regarding passenger rail.

On behalf of the commission, we offer assistance to help facilitate a resolution that will benefit Indiana and all our states, as well as ensure that critically-important safety requirements are met.

Sincerely,

Tim Hoeffner  
 MIPRC Chair

Joan Bray  
 MIPRC Vice Chair

Laura Kliewer  
 MIPRC Director

cc: Mr. Paul Nissenbaum, Associate Administrator for Railroad Policy and Development, Federal Railroad Administration  
 Mr. Joe Boardman, President and CEO, Amtrak