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State Rail Coalition weighs in on House T&I Committee's passenger rail proposal

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman John L. Mica (R-FL) and Rail Subcommittee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) have introduced a draft bill focused on the future of intercity passenger rail. The proposed legislation would bring competition to high-speed and intercity passenger rail service operations across the country, including the Northeast Corridor.

Paula Hammond, Chairwoman for the States for Passenger Rail Coalition (SPRC), issued a statement on behalf of the coalition which is summarized below:

“We appreciate consideration of private investment and options for stimulating private interest. At the same time, Amtrak is operating record ridership levels on the Northeast Corridor, has unique access rights to tracks across the country, and has made significant investments in infrastructure and equipment. We should carefully consider any changes to the current structure and what impacts these changes may have on the future viability of intercity passenger rail. We hope to work with Mr. Mica, Mr. Shuster, Ranking Member Rahall and Ranking Member Brown to achieve a consensus on how to move forward and make the critical investments necessary in the Northeast Corridor, in State-Supported Routes, and in long distance trains.”

The complete statement is available at www.s4prc.org/Resources/News.htm.

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About the States for Passenger Rail Coalition

The States for Passenger Rail Coalition is an alliance of state and regional transportation officials who work together to promote the development and growth of intercity passenger rail as part of an integrated national transportation network.