

States for
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**For Immediate Release
June 18, 2015**

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States for Passenger Rail Coalition Supports Bipartisan Passenger Rail Legislation

Portland, ME – June 18, 2015 - The States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc. (SPRC) greatly appreciates the leadership of Senators Wicker and Booker and the work of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation to develop passenger rail legislation that will address many of the needs and concerns of states and authorities. The proposal builds on bi-partisan legislation passed earlier this year by the House of Representatives, and makes safety the highest priority.

Nearly half of all Amtrak passenger trips are on state-supported trains, and “this legislation reinforces that fact, with a commitment to add seats for States on the Amtrak Board, something that has long been a priority of our coalition members,” stated Patricia Quinn, Executive Director of the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA) and Chair of SPRC. “Enactment of this legislation will provide states and authorities with a new means to include our input in the decisions made by Amtrak that affect these important state-financed trains.”

“SPRC looks forward to continuing its work with Congress as we strive to achieve our mutual goals of growing the nation’s passenger rail system and increasing ridership and cost efficiencies, while focusing on improvements in safety, mobility, and reliability” Ms. Quinn said.

The States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc. (SPRC) is comprised of twenty-three state departments of transportation and two regional authorities who are responsible for state corridor intercity passenger rail services.