

OneRail

America's future is riding on it.

April 15, 2010

The Honorable John F. Kerry
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Kerry, Graham and Lieberman:

As the Senate considers far-reaching climate change legislation, the OneRail Coalition respectfully urges you to ensure the rail sector is in a position to maximize its contribution to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Clean transportation solutions are an essential part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, any climate change legislation which contemplates raising funds from the transportation sector must carefully weigh the implications of such a policy on the different transportation modes, and at a minimum ensure that such funds could not be misallocated to the detriment of sustainable, environmentally favorable and energy efficient transportation solutions.

The OneRail Coalition believes that shifting miles of travel to rail is essential to accomplishing the nation's climate and energy independence goals. According to the most recent U.S. Department of Energy Transportation Energy Data Book, Amtrak is on average nineteen percent more energy efficient per passenger mile than commercial airlines and twenty-eight percent more efficient than automobiles. Moreover, freight trains are on average at least four times more fuel efficient than trucks, and each ton-mile moved by rail rather than highway reduces greenhouse gas emissions by three-quarters or more.

For these reasons, additional investments in clean transportation infrastructure would create jobs, cut transportation costs for consumers, and help meet our energy and climate goals.

Our nation's future requires policies that reduce oil consumption and GHG emissions. Augmenting investment in the U.S. freight rail network, in high-speed and

intercity passenger rail, and in commuter rail infrastructure can help accomplish these goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Anne P. Canby
President
Surface Transportation Policy Partnership
on behalf of the OneRail Coalition

