

## **Statement on Appointment of Representative LaHood As USDOT Secretary**

Issued December 19, 2008

The States for Passenger Rail Coalition congratulates Representative Ray LaHood on his nomination to be the next secretary of transportation.

Frank Busalacchi, secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and chair of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition today personally congratulated Representative LaHood on his nomination for the post of secretary of transportation. The 31-member coalition is dedicated to expanding a national system of intercity passenger rail service based on a dedicate funding system.

“President-elect Obama’s selection of Representative LaHood sends another clear signal that his administration will take a bold view of transportation, energy and environment,” Mr. Busalacchi said.

Mr. Busalacchi noted former representative LaHood’s service on the House Appropriations Committee would prove highly useful. “It’s all about the funding. What is the highest and best use of scarce dollars in an extraordinarily difficult economy? We can make a case for intercity passenger rail corridors: green collar jobs, energy security, and environmental savings,” he said.

Mr. Busalacchi promised to form a strong working partnership with the secretary-designate. Referring to the recently enacted comprehensive rail legislation, he called on Representative LaHood to seize the opportunity to build a true national transportation system.

“This is an exciting time for passenger rail in our nation, ” Mr. Busalacchi said.

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