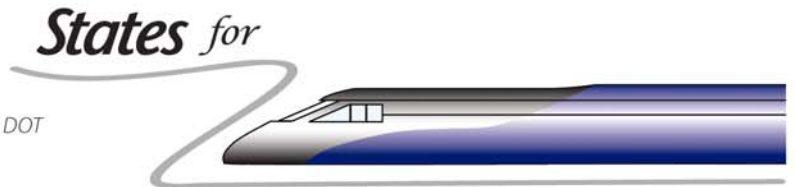


Chair, Secretary Frank J. Busalacchi, Wisconsin DOT
Vice Chair, Rail Manager Ken Uznanski, Washington DOT
Secretary-Treasurer, Deputy Commissioner Karen J. Rae, New York DOT



April 24, 2009

The Honorable John W. Olver, Chairman
The Honorable Tom Latham, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
United States House Appropriations Committee
H-218, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Passenger Rail Coalition

www.s4prc.org

Dear Chairman Olver and Ranking Member Latham:

On behalf of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, I am pleased to share with you the views of our member states on rail transportation investment in FFY 2010. First, let me say that as a state official, I completely empathize with the challenges you face – an abundance of worthwhile programs and projects and a scarcity of financial resources.

The States for Passenger Rail Coalition is grateful to the full Appropriations Committee and to the U.S. Congress for its generous investment in Amtrak, high-speed rail, and intercity passenger rail in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The states are working collaboratively with one another, with the Federal Railroad Administration, with Amtrak, and with a broad array of other groups to achieve the goals of ARRA. We are confident that we will not only meet those goals, but we will exceed them.

ARRA funding serves as the down payment on a national intercity passenger rail system. We fully support President Obama's request for \$1 billion in intercity passenger rail funds in FFY 2010. We believe the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA) provides an appropriate authorizing framework. As your committee's April 1st hearing clearly demonstrates, there is substantial, nationwide support for investment in intercity passenger rail. We urge you to do the following:

- o Fund Amtrak capital and operating expenses at the fully authorized level;
- o Fund intercity passenger rail as authorized in Division B, Title III, most notably:
 - Section 305 - Next Generation Corridor Train Equipment
 - 306 Rail Cooperative Research Program

These comparatively modest investments will accelerate the development and deployment of a modern intercity passenger rail system.

Finally, I must commend you for your continued interest and leadership in the development of a National Rail System Plan. Such a plan is essential to protect the public investment in intercity passenger rail. It is our strong desire to continue our conversations with you on this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Busalacchi
Chair, States for Passenger Rail Coalition
Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Member, National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission

Alabama
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Missouri
New Jersey
New York
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