

Chair, **David Kutrosky**, Capitol Corridor JPA  
Vice Chair, **Eric Curtit**, Missouri DOT  
Treasurer, **Venetta Keefe**, Indiana DOT  
Secretary, **Karen Songhurst**, Vermont AOT  
Former Officer, **Patricia Quinn**, NNEPRA  
At Large Member, **Amanda Martin**, Iowa DOT

*States for*  
[www.s4prc.org](http://www.s4prc.org)



**Via Email**

January 17, 2018

Senator John Thune, Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 511  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Bill Nelson, Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 716  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson:

The States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc. (SPRC) is an advocacy group made up of 24 State departments of transportation and passenger rail authority leaders from across the United States who work together to support the development and growth of passenger rail service for America.

Our members sponsor a combined 27 intercity passenger rail routes serving 296 communities across America. Last year our trains carried almost 15 million passengers, representing 48% of Amtrak's total ridership, the largest source of ridership among the three Amtrak business lines. We also contributed nearly \$800 million in revenues to Amtrak, through a combination of approximately \$550 million in passenger revenues plus \$250 million in contract payments.

As intercity passenger rail service sponsors, SPRC members are steadfastly committed to safety, service quality, and reliability. Safety is critical to the success of our sponsored routes. The protection and security of the passengers, employees, host railroads, and the communities are our collective top priority.

On behalf of all SPRC members, I would like to thank you for your leadership and ongoing support and, for your commitment to improving the safety, reliability, and performance of the nation's passenger and freight rail network.

Most importantly, given the background of the unfortunate and tragic incidents involving passenger trains recently and over the past few years, I write to express SPRC's request for the continued support of increased federal funding levels for the nation's passenger and freight railroads' equipment acquisition, installation, implementation and activation of Positive Train Control (PTC) as required by the Positive Train Control Enforcement and Implementation Act of 2015. Further, achieving the mandated deadline will require both flexibility and regulatory management that can only be achieved by direct involvement of senior management.

Passenger rail is a critical component of our nation's transportation network. Each day, millions of passengers travel on our system of intercity passenger rail, long distance trains, and commuter rail. Also, our nation's freight rail system is without equal in the world. The safe, reliable and cost-effective movement of passengers and goods by rail is vital to supporting both the nation's robust economy and our personal quality of life. The implementation of PTC across the national rail network acts to ensure the safety of all involved.

As you progress the work of the committee, our members are most willing to meet with you and/or your staff to relay our experiences and our concerns. Further, our members would be more than happy to offer testimony to the committee to share those experiences, report on the efforts we have made to improve our routes and service, and express a sense of urgency to provide the necessary increased funding to successfully and expeditiously implement PTC across the nation's rail network.

Again, thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

David B. Kutrosky  
Managing Director, Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority  
Chair, States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc.

California  
Connecticut  
Illinois  
Indiana  
Iowa  
Louisiana  
Massachusetts  
Maine  
Michigan  
Minnesota  
Missouri  
Nevada  
New York  
North Carolina  
Oklahoma  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania  
Vermont  
Virginia  
Washington  
Wisconsin  
Capitol Corridor  
Joint Powers  
Authority  
Northern  
New England  
Passenger  
Rail Authority  
LOSSAN  
Joint Powers  
Authority  
San Joaquin  
Joint Powers  
Authority