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States for
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VIA EMAIL

April 13, 2018

Senator Richard Shelby, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC, 20510

Senator Patrick Leahy, Vice-Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC, 20510

Senator Susan Collins, Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
and Urban Development and Related Agencies
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC, 20510

Senator Jack Reed, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
and Urban Development and Related Agencies
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Senators Shelby, Leahy, Collins and Reed:

On behalf of the members of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition (SPRC), I would like to thank you and your Committee colleagues for your leadership and commitment to intercity passenger rail as evidenced in the recently enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act 2018 (PL 115-141).

SPRC is especially pleased with the increased funding made available to state-sponsored intercity passenger rail services in the Federal Railroad Administration intercity passenger rail discretionary grants, TIGER grant program, and Amtrak. These FFY 18 funding levels represent a substantial level of investment in the national network to enhance safety and strengthen both the Nation's rural communities and the regional economic centers.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of Senator Cochran to restore passenger rail service to the Gulf coast and thereby enhance the national network.

Further, we congratulate Senator Shelby as he assumes the chairmanship of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

As you move forward in advancing deliberations on the FY 2019 Transportation Housing and Urban Development Appropriation, the SPRC members stand ready to provide testimony and to meet with the Committee, your staff and you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

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

About the Coalition

SPRC consists of 20 State departments of transportation and four passenger rail authorities from across the United States who work together to support the development and growth of all intercity passenger rail service. Additionally, our Coalition states sponsor 29 intercity passenger rail (IPR) routes serving 296 communities across America and represent nearly half of Amtrak national ridership.

Cc: Senator Thad Cochran

California

Connecticut

Illinois

Indiana

Iowa

Louisiana

Massachusetts

Maine

Michigan

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*