June 5, 2015

Mr. James P. Redeker, Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, Connecticut 06111

Dear Commissioner Redeker,

On behalf of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc. (SPRC) I congratulate you on your appointment as Chairman of the AASHTO Standing Committee on Rail Transportation (SCORT).

SPRC is comprised of state leaders from across the United States. The Coalition’s mission is to promote the research, development, implementation, operation, sustainability, and expansion of publicly-supported intercity passenger rail services. On behalf of its membership of 22 state departments of transportation and 2 passenger rail authorities, SPRC advocates for ongoing federal funding and support for intercity passenger rail initiatives.

SPRC members also partner with the freight railroads to implement capacity and safety improvements needed to ensure effective, reliable, and efficient freight and intercity passenger rail services.

In addition to sponsoring intercity passenger rail services, and working with the freight railroads, SPRC members also partner with the USDOT to manage the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)-sponsored highway-railroad grade crossing safety program; the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)-sponsored State Safety Oversight Program; the FRA-certified State Rail Safety Programs; and SPRC members are also active in local Operation Lifesaver Rail Safety Education Programs.

We welcome your leadership of this most important national committee of state rail program leaders, and we look forward to working in concert with you to advocate for improvements that will ensure a safer, more secure, and more efficient national rail transportation network now and on into the future.

Sincerely,

Patricia Quinn, Chair
States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc.

cc: John Cox, Director, Wyoming Department of Transportation
    Bud Wright, Executive Director, AASHTO