

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 1, 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-146A, United States of Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks:

As you work to finalize the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill, we strongly urge you to maintain the \$1.48 billion for Amtrak and the \$100 million for high-speed and intercity passenger rail funding included in the Senate Appropriations Committee reported bill. We also urge you to oppose the cuts proposed in the House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee reported bill to Amtrak's operating funds and the elimination of funding for state-supported routes.

Amtrak is the only nationwide intercity passenger rail service. Amtrak recently announced that a record 30.2 million passengers traveled on its trains in FY 11, marking the highest ridership total since Amtrak started operations in 1971. Since 2000, ridership has risen nearly 44 percent. Every day, it serves on average 82,700 passengers in more than 500 communities—150 of them rural—across 46 states on nearly 300 trains. Amtrak is also the nation's largest provider of contract-commuter service for state and regional authorities and serves more than 900,000 people each weekday.

The House Subcommittee bill would have devastating impacts on Amtrak by reducing funding for Amtrak's operating expenses by 60 percent and eliminating state-supported routes. The legislation would result in at least 1,500 Amtrak employees losing their jobs, and would likely end many of Amtrak's long distance trains. Additionally, this proposal would eliminate a transportation option for more than 13 million passengers that depend on the State-supported routes, which are some of the busiest and fastest growing routes in the country. It would also undermine the work states have already done with Amtrak to reach agreements on state contributions for state-supported routes. Congress should not impose a unilateral decision that would strip states of their ability to negotiate a fair contribution with Amtrak.

Additionally, Congress has maintained a commitment to high-speed and intercity rail for over a decade. The Senate bill continues this commitment and ensures that Amtrak has the resources it needs to continue successful operations. The Senate bill also includes \$100 million to allow more states and communities to benefit from faster, more reliable passenger rail service. States and communities around the country are eager for federal funds to help advance rail projects.

Last year, the Department of Transportation received nearly 100 applications for high-speed rail funding, but they were only able to fulfill fewer than half of those requests. In the short-term, this funding will provide targeted investments to support state rail programs, aid economic recovery efforts and lay the foundation for the high-speed passenger rail network.

As you continue working on the FY 2012 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, we urge you to reject the House's cuts and to maintain the funding provided to Amtrak and high-speed intercity passenger rail in the Senate bill. We appreciate your consistent support of Amtrak and the passenger rail programs and look forward to working with you on this important issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Louise M. Slaughter  
U.S. Representative  
Co-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



Frank R. Lautenberg  
U.S. Senator  
Co-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



Richard J. Durbin  
U.S. Senator  
Co-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



Corrine Brown  
U.S. Representative  
Co-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



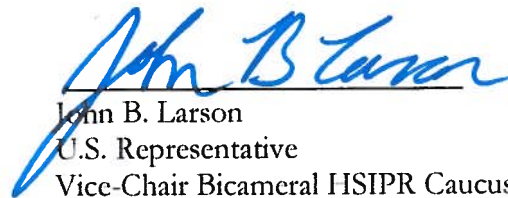
David Price  
U.S. Representative  
Co-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



Zoe Lofgren  
U.S. Representative  
Co-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



Tim Walz  
U.S. Representative  
Co-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



John B. Larson  
U.S. Representative  
Vice-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



Robert Andrews  
U.S. Representative  
Vice-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



Earl Blumenauer  
U.S. Representative  
Vice-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



Laura Richardson  
U.S. Representative  
Vice-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



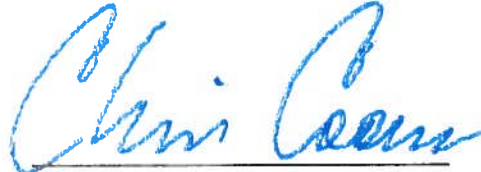
Richard Blumenthal  
U.S. Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
U.S. Senator



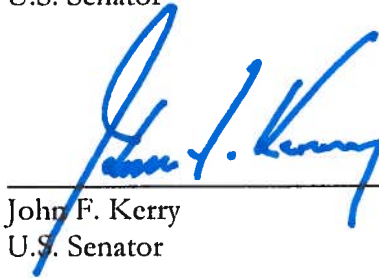
Thomas R. Carper  
U.S. Senator



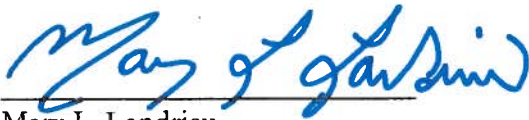
Christopher A. Coons  
U.S. Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
U.S. Senator



John F. Kerry  
U.S. Senator



Mary L. Landrieu  
U.S. Senator



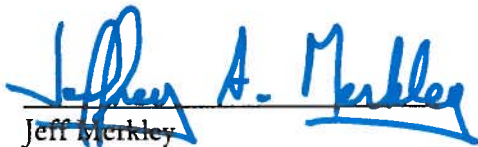
Joseph I. Lieberman  
U.S. Senator



Carl Levin  
U.S. Senator



Robert Menendez  
U.S. Senator



Jeff Merkley  
U.S. Senator



John D. Rockefeller IV  
U.S. Senator



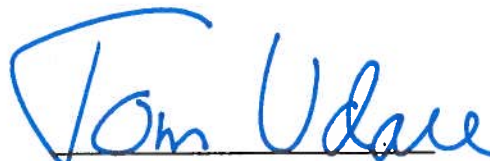
Bernard Sanders  
U.S. Senator



Charles E. Schumer  
U.S. Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
U.S. Senator



Tom Udall  
U.S. Senator



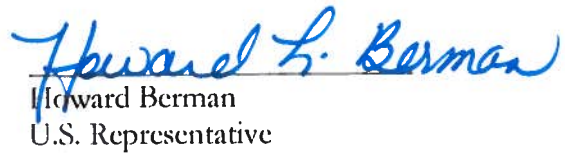
Sheldon Whitehouse  
U.S. Senator

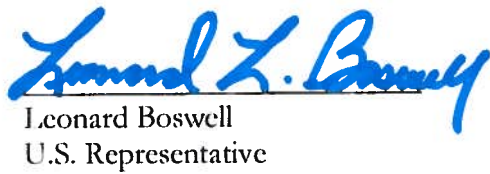


Ron Wyden  
U.S. Senator



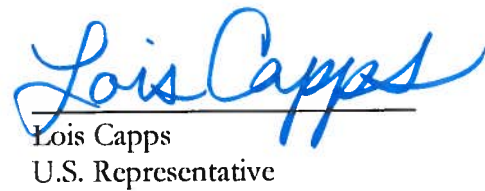
  
Shelley Berkley  
U.S. Representative

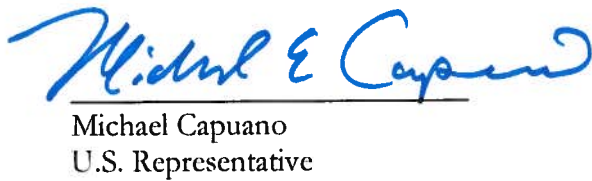
  
Howard Berman  
U.S. Representative

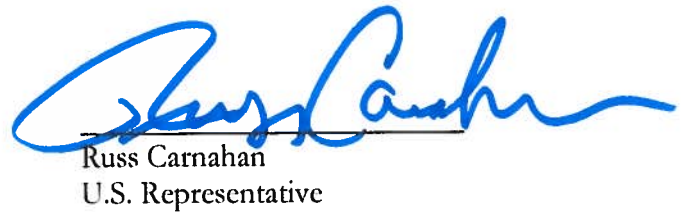
  
Leonard Boswell  
U.S. Representative

  
Bruce Braley  
U.S. Representative

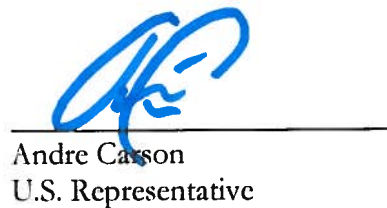
  
G.K. Butterfield  
U.S. Representative

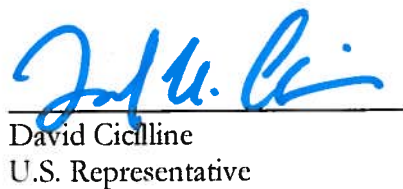
  
Lois Capps  
U.S. Representative

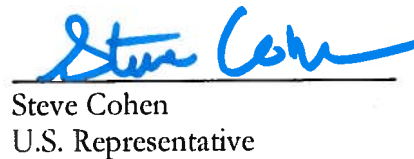
  
Michael Capuano  
U.S. Representative

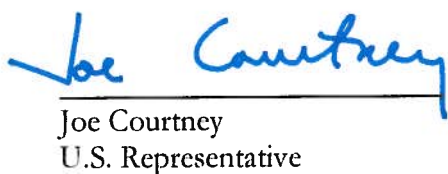
  
Russ Carnahan  
U.S. Representative

  
John Carney  
U.S. Representative

  
Andre Carson  
U.S. Representative

  
David Cicilline  
U.S. Representative

  
Steve Cohen  
U.S. Representative

  
Joe Courtney  
U.S. Representative

  
Elijah Cummings  
U.S. Representative




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Peter Del'azio  
U.S. Representative




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Rosa L. DeLauro  
U.S. Representative




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John Dingell  
U.S. Representative




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Keith Ellison  
U.S. Representative




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Sam Farr  
U.S. Representative



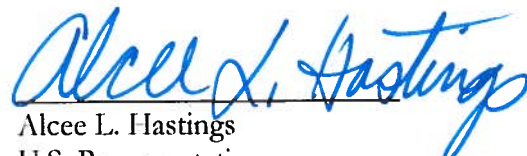
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Bob Filner  
U.S. Representative



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Al Green  
U.S. Representative




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Alcee L. Hastings  
U.S. Representative



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Maurice Hinchey  
U.S. Representative




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Rush Holt  
U.S. Representative



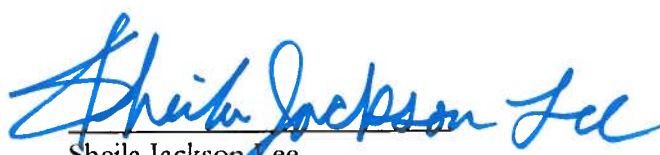
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Mike Honda  
U.S. Representative




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Jesse L. Jackson Jr.  
U.S. Representative



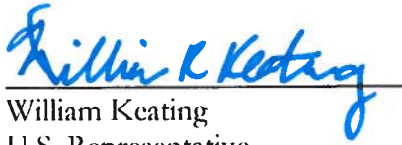
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Sheila Jackson Lee  
U.S. Representative



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Henry C. Johnson Jr.  
U.S. Representative



William Keating  
U.S. Representative



Jim Langevin  
U.S. Representative



Rick Larsen  
U.S. Representative



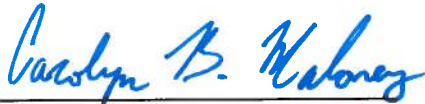
David Loebsack  
U.S. Representative



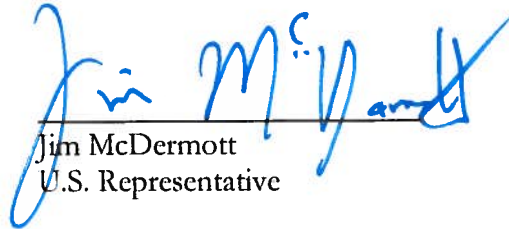
Peter Welch  
U.S. Representative



Stephen F. Lynch  
U.S. Representative



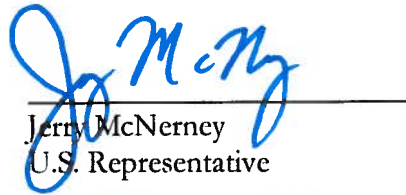
Carolyn Maloney  
U.S. Representative



Jim McDermott  
U.S. Representative



James McGovern  
U.S. Representative



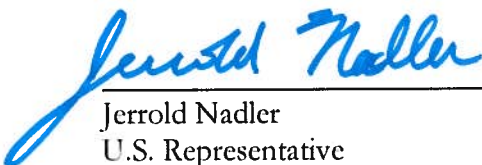
Jerry McNerney  
U.S. Representative



George Miller  
U.S. Representative



Gwen Moore  
U.S. Representative



Jerrold Nadler  
U.S. Representative



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
U.S. Representative





Bill Pascrell Jr.  
U.S. Representative



Chellie Pingree  
U.S. Representative



Steven Rothman  
U.S. Representative



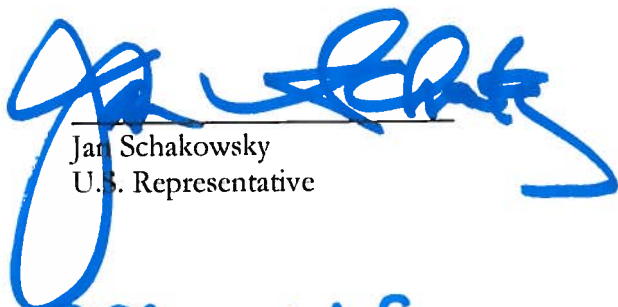
Dutch Ruppersberger  
U.S. Representative



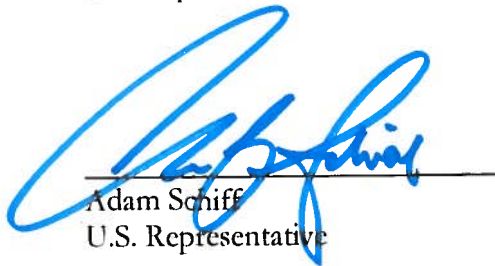
Bobby L. Rush  
U.S. Representative



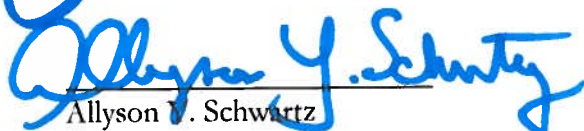
Tim Ryan  
U.S. Representative



Jan Schakowsky  
U.S. Representative




Adam Schiff  
U.S. Representative



Allyson Y. Schwartz  
U.S. Representative



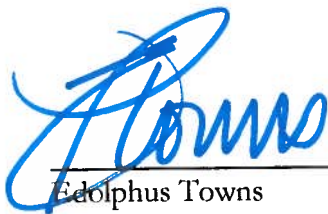
Robert C. Scott  
U.S. Representative



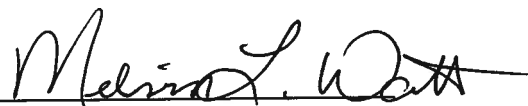
Albio Sires  
U.S. Representative



Paul D. Tonko  
U.S. Representative




Edolphus Towns  
U.S. Representative



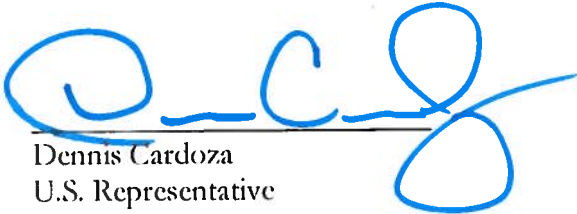
Mel Watt  
U.S. Representative



Gary Ackerman  
U.S. Representative



Tim Bishop  
U.S. Representative



Dennis Cardoza  
U.S. Representative



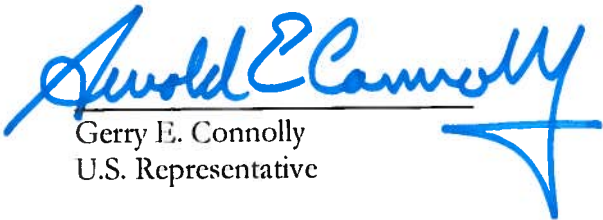
Hansen Clarke  
U.S. Representative



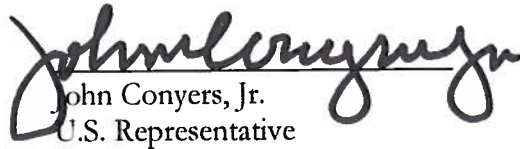
Wm Lacy Clay  
U.S. Representative



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
U.S. Representative



Gerry E. Connolly  
U.S. Representative



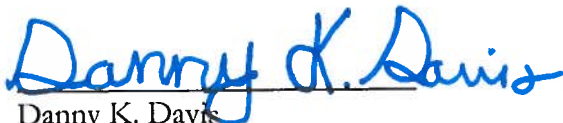
John Conyers, Jr.  
U.S. Representative



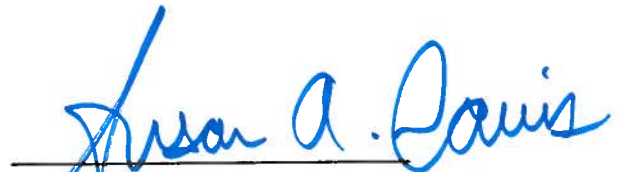
Jim Costa  
U.S. Representative



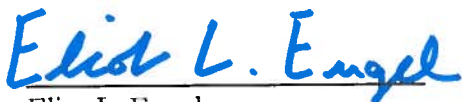
Jerry F. Costello  
U.S. Representative



Danny K. Davis  
U.S. Representative



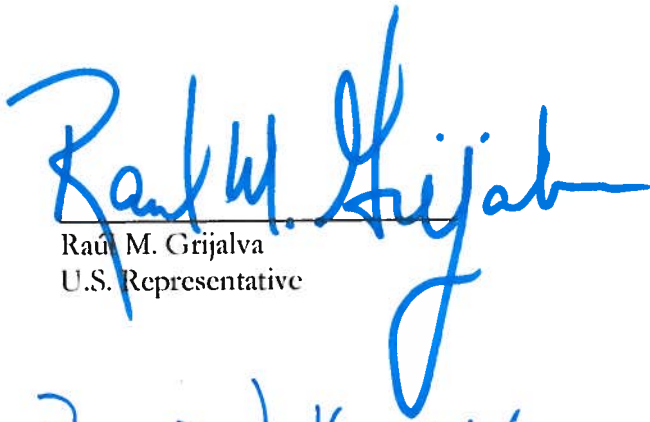
Susan Davis  
U.S. Representative



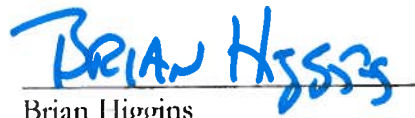
Eliot L. Engel  
U.S. Representative



John Garamendi  
U.S. Representative



Raúl M. Grijalva  
U.S. Representative



Brian Higgins  
U.S. Representative



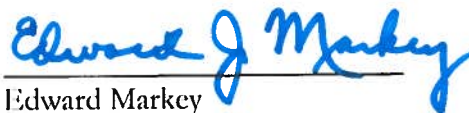
Dennis J. Kucinich  
U.S. Representative



Daniel Lipinski  
U.S. Representative



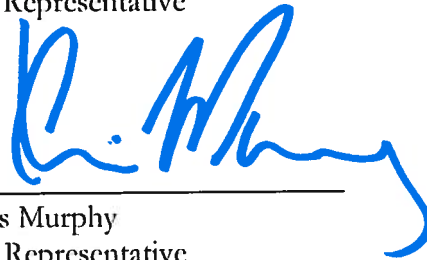
Sander M. Levin  
U.S. Representative



Edward Markey  
U.S. Representative



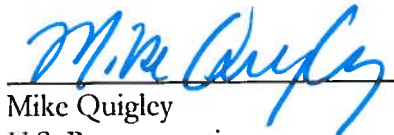
Jim Moran  
U.S. Representative



Chris Murphy  
U.S. Representative



Donald M. Payne  
U.S. Representative



Mike Quigley  
U.S. Representative



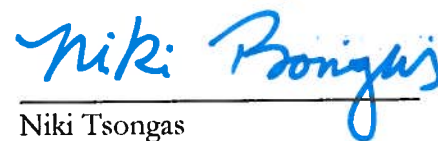
Brad Sherman  
U.S. Representative



Jackie Speier  
U.S. Representative



Bennie Thompson  
U.S. Representative



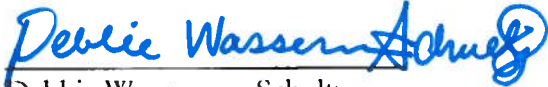
Niki Tsongas  
U.S. Representative



Gary C. Peters  
U.S. Representative



Richard E. Neal  
U.S. Representative



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
U.S. Representative



Henry A. Waxman  
U.S. Representative

Cc: Senator Murray  
Senator Collins  
Representative Latham  
Representative Olver