



OneRail Coalition Supports House Passage of Bipartisan Passenger Rail Bill

March 2, 2015
United States House of Representatives

Dear Representative,

The OneRail Coalition urges the House of Representatives to pass, without amendment, H.R. 749, the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015 (PRRIA). PRRIA was reported unanimously on a bipartisan basis out of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee under the strong leadership of Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, Chairman Denham, and Ranking Member Capuano. OneRail applauds these leaders for their work on this bill and for restoring the grand traditions of bipartisanship and pragmatic compromise in the House T&I Committee.

The OneRail Coalition appreciates the bill's intention to strengthen the country's intercity passenger rail system and the Committee's affirmation of the importance of a national passenger rail network. As the Committee notes, by 2039, the U.S. population will exceed 400 million and the population concentration in our urban areas is increasing. Transportation solutions for these people are paramount in order to support an expanding U.S. economy. The costs of congestion and poor transportation infrastructure also continue to rise for commuters: almost \$121 billion each year in wasted time and fuel, up from only \$24 billion in 1982. In addition, Americans spend a staggering 5.5 billion hours annually stuck in traffic. Passenger rail presents one of the best hopes for solving these problems and relieving our congested highways and airspace and maintaining mobility in rural America.

The OneRail Coalition looks forward to working with the bipartisan leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate to further strengthen this bill as it moves through the legislative process. In particular, the Coalition will continue to work to educate the American public and Congress about the need to provide the same dedicated funding for the national intercity passenger rail network that is enjoyed by other modes. Having a predictable, dedicated, and robust federal funding source is essential to sustaining and improving the intercity passenger rail system and achieving a balanced transportation system that provides meaningful travel choices for Americans.

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For further information, contact:
Anne Canby, Director
OneRail Coalition
acanby@onerail.org
202-466-2641
www.onerail.org

About the OneRail Coalition:

OneRail is a diverse group of rail stakeholders who have come together to educate America about the benefits of a strong freight and passenger rail system. Our members include the American Association of Private Railroad Car Owners (**AAPRCO**), American Public Transportation Association (**APTA**), American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (**ASLRRRA**), **Amtrak**, Association of American Railroads (**AAR**), Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (**BLET**), Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (**BMWE**), Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (**BRS**), International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers – United Transportation Union (**SMART-UTU**), National Association of Railroad Passengers (**NARP**), National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association (**NRC**), Railway Supply Institute (**RSI**), States for Passenger Rail Coalition (**S4PRC**), Surface Transportation Policy Partnership (**STPP**), Sheet Metal Workers International Association (**SMWIA**), and the Transportation Communications International Union/International Association of Machinists (**TCU/IAM**).

Our Associate Supporters include **AECOM**, **Alstom**, **Caterpillar**, **General Electric**, **HNTB**, **Parsons**, and **Parsons Brinckerhoff**. These global companies represent the engineering and manufacturing sectors that are an essential component of private sector job creation in the transportation industry in the United States.