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States for
www.s4prc.org



Via Email

Date: March 16, 2020

Representative David E. Price, Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Representative Mario Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

During these most trying and unprecedented times, the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc. (SPRC), consisting of twenty four states and passenger rail authorities (www.S4PRC.org), fully supports Amtrak's request for emergency federal funding. Many of our states and authorities financially supporting Amtrak routes are witnessing ridership reductions of more than 50%. Additionally, States generate approximately \$530M annually in passenger fares with the remainder of costs provided through state contributions.

Given that Amtrak relies upon these fares to cover much of the operating costs, it is inevitable that services will be reduced drastically hitting state-supported intercity passenger rail, long distance, and the Northeast Corridor services. While Amtrak and the States are working together to adjust services to maximize safety and to offset costs, it is imperative that the passenger rail network receive federal financial support to continue as a viable part of the nation's transportation system.

Therefore, the States for Passenger Rail Coalition's full membership unequivocally supports Amtrak's emergency request for \$978 Million, which includes \$200 Million to offset the states' losses. Our Member organizations stand ready to provide any additional information that may help in advancing this critical request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely

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