

Chair, **Arun Rao, AICP**; Wisconsin DOT
Vice Chair, **Vacant**
Treasurer, **Rob Padgett**, CCIPA
Secretary, **Ray Hessinger**, New York State DOT
Former Officer, **Patricia Quinn**, NNEPRA
At Large Member, **Amanda Martin**, Iowa DOT

States for
www.s4prc.org



Via Email

Date: March 16, 2020

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

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

Dear Chairwoman Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

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

Arun Rao, AICP; Chair, States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc.
Passenger Rail Manager, Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Railroads and Harbors Section
4822 Madison Yards Way, 6th Floor South
Madison, WI 53707-7913
(608) 266-3015 FAX (608) 267-0294
arun.rao@dot.wi.gov

California

Colorado - Southwest
Chief & Front Range
Passenger Rail
Commission

Connecticut

Illinois

Indiana

Iowa

Louisiana

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

Missouri

Nevada

New York

North Carolina

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