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VIA Email

June 14, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
Hart Senate Office Building 420A
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
Dirksen Senate Office Building 512
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

As Chair and Vice Chair of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc. (SPRC) we write to you on behalf of our members to support increased funding for intercity passenger rail through multiple channels within the reauthorization of the FAST Act. We wish to thank you and your fellow Committee Members for your bipartisan efforts in support of intercity passenger rail resulting in the *Surface Transportation Investment Act of 2021*. A robust national program of investment in passenger rail improves mobility, supports economic recovery and growth, protects the environment, and enhances our quality of life.

The States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc. (SPRC) consists of 19 State departments of transportation and four passenger rail authorities from across the United States who work together to support the development and growth of passenger rail service. Established in 2000, the SPRC has members representing the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. Additional members include the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority, the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency, the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority, and the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority.

SPRC members sponsor 29 intercity passenger rail routes serving 296 communities across America and have a vested interest in the Amtrak national network of long-distance routes and the Northeast Corridor. As intercity passenger rail service sponsors, SPRC members are steadfastly committed to safety, service quality and reliability. Safety is critical to our service, passengers, employees, host railroads and the communities we serve.

Increased funding for passenger rail investments will enable our states and rail authorities to build upon their well-documented success in strengthening our national intercity passenger rail network. Please be assured that we stand ready to provide any assistance we can offer in support of passenger rail expansion as part of an integrated transportation system to meet the mobility needs of all.

Thank you and your colleagues for your continued leadership in providing funding to address our nation's critical passenger rail needs.

Best Regards,

Arun D. Rao, AICP
Chair, States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc.

Jeremy Latimer
Vice Chair, States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc.

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Colorado - Southwest
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San Joaquin
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