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*States for*  
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**Via Email**

Date: September 2, 2020

Senator Susan Collins, Chairwoman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and 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:

On May 28, 2020, the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc. (SPRC) transmitted a letter to you, under my signature. The letter was sent in support of Amtrak's May 26<sup>th</sup> letter requesting a FY21 supplemental appropriation to offset some of the financial impacts that resulted from the COVID 19 pandemic. The supplemental funding requested at that time was targeted to help protect the long-term stability of the network - long-distance, state-supported, and Northeast Corridor (NEC) services.

Many of our SPRC Member states and passenger rail authorities financially support Amtrak through contracted services which provide direct rail access to communities across the country.

During normal operations, States generate approximately \$530M annually in passenger fares to Amtrak and an additional \$280M in direct state financial support. We continue to witness significantly reduced ticket revenues which will continue into FY21. Even at reduced service levels, the Amtrak-State cost-sharing policy, mandated by Congress, requires significant increases to States' operating support due to Amtrak, at a time when state budgets are tightening.

The section of the House passed FY21 Appropriations Bill that addresses intercity passenger rail provides additional funding for Amtrak and the States as they look to recover to pre-COVID-19 levels of ridership and service. It is imperative that the final approved FY21 spending plan provide the essential support for the continued operations of the 28 state-supported routes.

In Amtrak's May 26<sup>th</sup> supplemental appropriations request they asked that Congress provide \$260 million to support expenses allocated to the state-supported routes. Since late May, Amtrak and the state partners have continued to update forecasts based on the evolution of the pandemic. A slower than expected recovery of rail ridership in the second half of FY20 has resulted in significantly lower revenue projections for next fiscal year. As a result, Amtrak and the states have updated their estimated funding needs to \$350 million. This amount is a reasonable estimate of the supplemental funding needs and would best be credited to the states proportional with each route's FY19 revenue, with a minimum level of support. This approach would allow states to use the funding to make up for lost ticket revenues, partially

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Passenger  
Rail Authority*

*LOSSAN  
Joint Powers Authority*

*San Joaquin  
Joint Powers Authority*

offset FY21 costs, and support retaining and restoring service as intercity travel resumes and the economy recovers. Absent federal support, a number of state services may need to further curtail or terminate their service.

Additionally, I would like to reiterate the importance to our members and their constituencies, of continued Amtrak long-distance service. As noted in our previous letter of May 28, 2020, SPRC supports emergency funds to ensure all long-distance services as well as state-supported and the NEC, are continued.

The Coalition and our Member organizations fully support the \$350 million supplemental request and stand ready to provide any additional information that may help in advancing this critical need. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



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