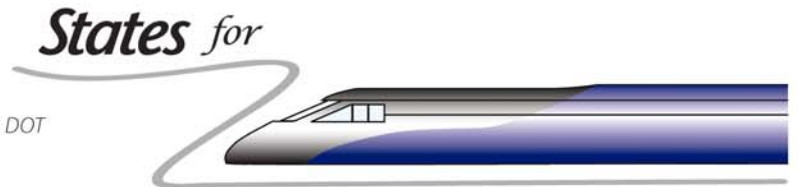


Chair, Secretary Frank J. Busalacchi, Wisconsin DOT
Vice Chair, Rail Manager Ken Uznanski, Washington DOT
Secretary-Treasurer, Deputy Commissioner Karen J. Rae, New York DOT



Passenger Rail Coalition

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March 27, 2008

The Honorable Kit Bond
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
274 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2503

Dear Senator Bond:

On behalf of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, I am pleased to share with the Subcommittee the perspective of our 31 member states on transportation funding in the FY2009 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Among the many benefits of a robust national intercity passenger rail system to our country, we believe that the economic and energy-saving benefits alone justify a substantial federal investment in this mode.

We urge you to include the following provisions in the Subcommittee's bill:

- Amtrak funding of \$1.671 billion at a minimum;
- \$100 million for the state capital investment program for intercity passenger rail. This program is leading the way to a new approach to intercity passenger rail service and we appreciate your support for this program last year. We recommend that ten percent of total funding be directed to corridor development planning and an additional five percent be directed to related education and outreach efforts.
- Funding for the Swift High Speed Rail Development and Rail Line Relocation and Improvement programs;
- \$10 million to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Research and Innovative Technology Administration's Nationwide Differential Global Positioning System effort (NDGPS). NDGPS is essential to the development of advanced train control systems providing safety and capacity benefits to both passenger and freight operations.

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Importantly, the vast majority of these vital investments will stay close to home where citizens can see the energy and environmental benefits of rail service. As always, we appreciate your continued leadership and support for intercity passenger rail development in the United States.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Busalacchi

Frank J. Busalacchi
Chair, States for Passenger Rail Coalition
Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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