



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

Bruce W. Starr
*Senator
Oregon
President, NCSL*

Thomas W. Wright
*Chief of Staff to Speaker
Alaska
Staff Chair, NCSL*

William T. Pound
Executive Director

October 29, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
United States House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
United States House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeff Denham
Chairman
Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials
Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
1730 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Corrine Brown
Ranking Member
Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials
Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster, Representative Rahall, Chairman Denham and Representative Brown:

As the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee begins its work to reauthorize the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) encourages you to move legislation forward that supports the continued economic viability of Amtrak and other passenger rail providers. It is in our nation's interest to provide our rail system with the same financial security as other modes of transportation – highways, transit, aviation and waterways. As such, NCSL strongly supports a dedicated source of federal funding for passenger rail service, including adequate support for a capital improvement program.

Additionally, NCSL believes that intercity passenger rail systems have been integral to alleviating congestion and environmental concerns in the nation. Federal support for these efforts is imperative. NCSL also urges the federal government to support the states in meeting their expanded role in high-speed and intercity passenger rail and to facilitate interstate coordination as well as relationships among diverse stakeholders.

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Moving forward, NCSL welcomes the opportunity to further discuss federal funding of Amtrak and other passenger rail systems across the nation.

Please contact Ben Husch (202-624-7779 and ben.husch@ncsl.org) or Melanie Condon (202-624-3597 and melanie.condon@ncsl.org) for any additional information.

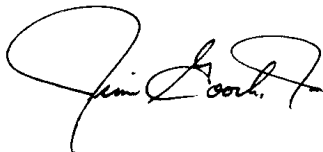
Sincerely,



Representative John McCoy, Washington
Co-Chair, NCSL Natural Resources and
Infrastructure Committee



Senator Ross Tolleson, Georgia
Co-Chair, NCSL Natural Resources and
Infrastructure Committee



Representative Jim Gooch Jr., Kentucky
Co-Chair, NCSL Natural Resources and
Infrastructure Committee



Senator John C. Watkins, Virginia
Co-Chair, NCSL Natural Resources and
Infrastructure Committee

Attached: NCSL's Our Nation's Rail System Policy Directive