

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A, United States of Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks:

As you work to finalize the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill, we strongly urge you to maintain the \$1.48 billion for Amtrak and the \$100 million for high-speed and intercity passenger rail funding included in the Senate Appropriations Committee reported bill. We also urge you to oppose the cuts proposed in the House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee reported bill to Amtrak's operating funds and the elimination of funding for state-supported routes.

Amtrak is the only nationwide intercity passenger rail service. Amtrak recently announced that a record 30.2 million passengers traveled on its trains in FY 11, marking the highest ridership total since Amtrak started operations in 1971. Since 2000, ridership has risen nearly 44 percent. Every day, it serves on average 82,700 passengers in more than 500 communities—150 of them rural—across 46 states on nearly 300 trains. Amtrak is also the nation's largest provider of contract-commuter service for state and regional authorities and serves more than 900,000 people each weekday.

The House Subcommittee bill would have devastating impacts on Amtrak by reducing funding for Amtrak's operating expenses by 60 percent and eliminating state-supported routes. The legislation would result in at least 1,500 Amtrak employees losing their jobs, and would likely end many of Amtrak's long distance trains. Additionally, this proposal would eliminate a transportation option for more than 13 million passengers that depend on the State-supported routes, which are some of the busiest and fastest growing routes in the country. It would also undermine the work states have already done with Amtrak to reach agreements on state contributions for state-supported routes. Congress should not impose a unilateral decision that would strip states of their ability to negotiate a fair contribution with Amtrak.

Additionally, Congress has maintained a commitment to high-speed and intercity rail for over a decade. The Senate bill continues this commitment and ensures that Amtrak has the resources it needs to continue successful operations. The Senate bill also includes \$100 million to allow more states and communities to benefit from faster, more reliable passenger rail service. States and communities around the country are eager for federal funds to help advance rail projects.

Last year, the Department of Transportation received nearly 100 applications for high-speed rail funding, but they were only able to fulfill fewer than half of those requests. In the short-term, this funding will provide targeted investments to support state rail programs, aid economic recovery efforts and lay the foundation for the high-speed passenger rail network.

As you continue working on the FY 2012 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, we urge you to reject the House's cuts and to maintain the funding provided to Amtrak and high-speed intercity passenger rail in the Senate bill. We appreciate your consistent support of Amtrak and the passenger rail programs and look forward to working with you on this important issue. Thank you for your consideration.

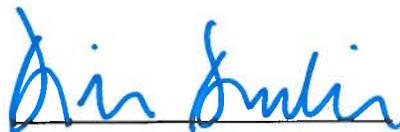
Sincerely,



Louise M. Slaughter
U.S. Representative
Co-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



Frank R. Lautenberg
U.S. Senator
Co-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator
Co-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



Corrine Brown
U.S. Representative
Co-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



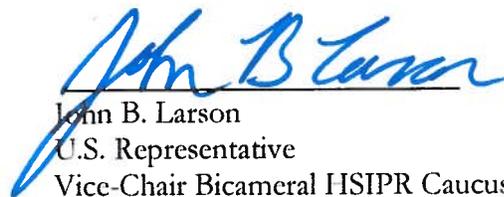
David Price
U.S. Representative
Co-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



Zoe Lofgren
U.S. Representative
Co-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



Tim Walz
U.S. Representative
Co-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



John B. Larson
U.S. Representative
Vice-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



Robert Andrews
U.S. Representative
Vice-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



Earl Blumenauer
U.S. Representative
Vice-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



Laura Richardson
U.S. Representative
Vice-Chair Bicameral HSIPR Caucus



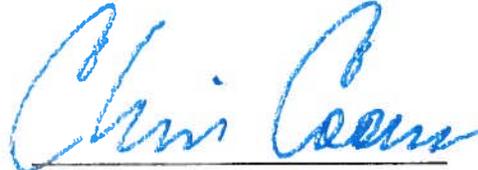
Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
U.S. Senator



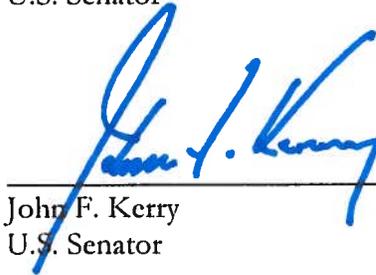
Thomas R. Carper
U.S. Senator



Christopher A. Coons
U.S. Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
U.S. Senator



John F. Kerry
U.S. Senator



Mary L. Landrieu
U.S. Senator



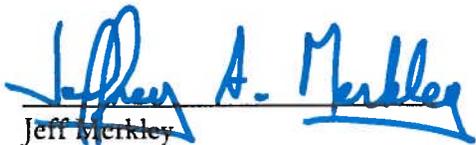
Joseph I. Lieberman
U.S. Senator



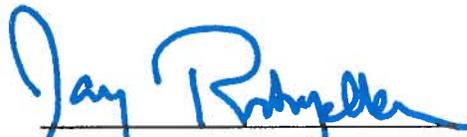
Carl Levin
U.S. Senator



Robert Menendez
U.S. Senator



Jeff Merkley
U.S. Senator



John D. Rockefeller IV
U.S. Senator



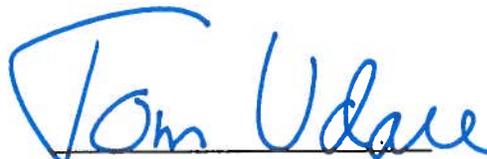
Bernard Sanders
U.S. Senator



Charles E. Schumer
U.S. Senator



Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator



Tom Udall
U.S. Senator

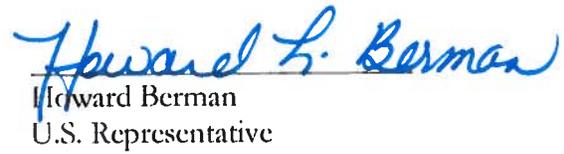


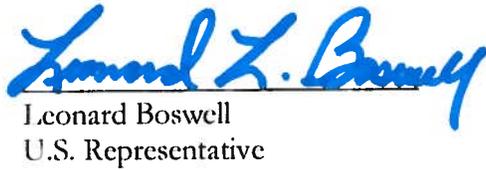
Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senator



Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator


Shelley Berkley
U.S. Representative

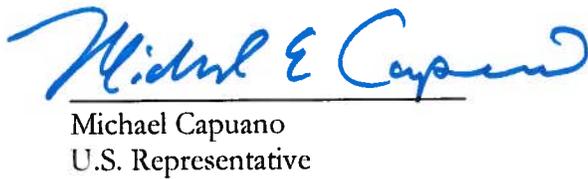

Howard Berman
U.S. Representative


Leonard Boswell
U.S. Representative


Bruce Braley
U.S. Representative


G.K. Butterfield
U.S. Representative

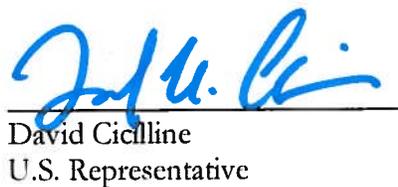

Lois Capps
U.S. Representative


Michael Capuano
U.S. Representative

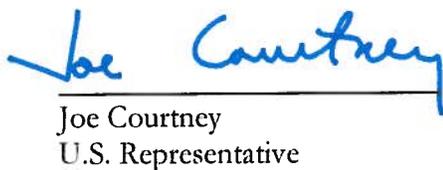

Russ Carnahan
U.S. Representative


John Carney
U.S. Representative


Andre Carson
U.S. Representative


David Cicilline
U.S. Representative


Steve Cohen
U.S. Representative


Joe Courtney
U.S. Representative


Elijah Cummings
U.S. Representative



Peter Del'azio
U.S. Representative



Rosa L. DeLauro
U.S. Representative



John Dingell
U.S. Representative



Keith Ellison
U.S. Representative



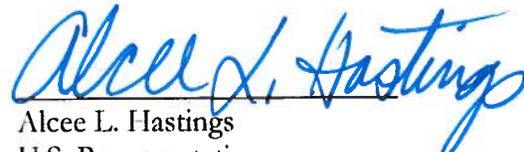
Sam Farr
U.S. Representative



Bob Filner
U.S. Representative



Al Green
U.S. Representative



Alcee L. Hastings
U.S. Representative



Maurice Hinchey
U.S. Representative



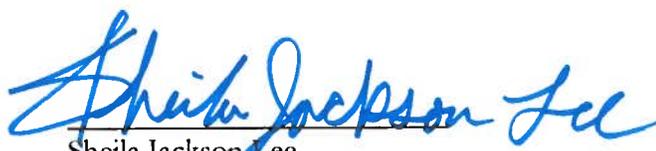
Rush Holt
U.S. Representative



Mike Honda
U.S. Representative



Jesse L. Jackson Jr.
U.S. Representative



Sheila Jackson Lee
U.S. Representative



Henry C. Johnson Jr.
U.S. Representative

William Keating

William Keating
U.S. Representative

Jim Langevin

Jim Langevin
U.S. Representative

Rick Larsen

Rick Larsen
U.S. Representative

David Loebsack

David Loebsack
U.S. Representative

Peter Welch

Peter Welch
U.S. Representative

Stephen F. Lynch

Stephen F. Lynch
U.S. Representative

Carolyn B. Maloney

Carolyn Maloney
U.S. Representative

Jim McDermott

Jim McDermott
U.S. Representative

James McGovern

James McGovern
U.S. Representative

Jerry McNerney

Jerry McNerney
U.S. Representative

George Miller

George Miller
U.S. Representative

Gwen Moore

Gwen Moore
U.S. Representative

Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler
U.S. Representative

Eleanor Holmes Norton

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U.S. Representative



Bill Pascrell Jr.
U.S. Representative



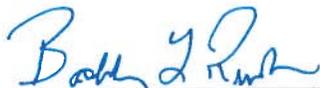
Chellie Pingree
U.S. Representative



Steven Rothman
U.S. Representative



Dutch Ruppersberger
U.S. Representative



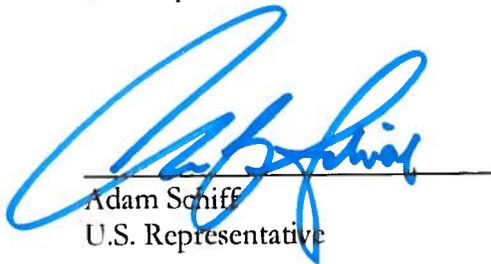
Bobby L. Rush
U.S. Representative



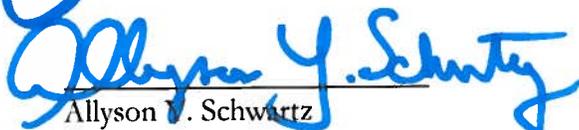
Tim Ryan
U.S. Representative



Jan Schakowsky
U.S. Representative



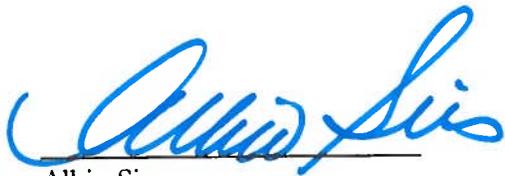
Adam Schiff
U.S. Representative



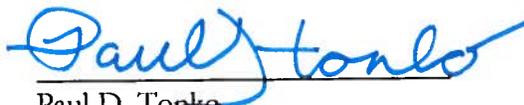
Allyson Y. Schwartz
U.S. Representative



Robert C. Scott
U.S. Representative



Albio Sires
U.S. Representative



Paul D. Tonko
U.S. Representative



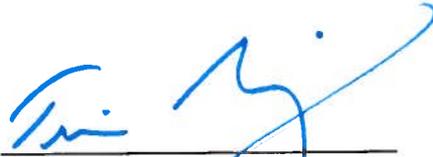
Edolphus Towns
U.S. Representative



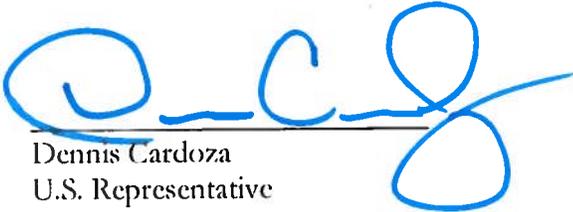
Mel Watt
U.S. Representative



Gary Ackerman
U.S. Representative



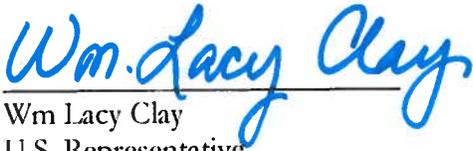
Tim Bishop
U.S. Representative



Dennis Cardoza
U.S. Representative



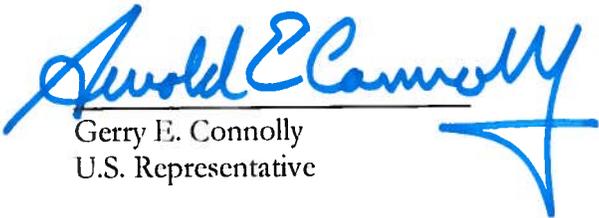
Hansen Clarke
U.S. Representative



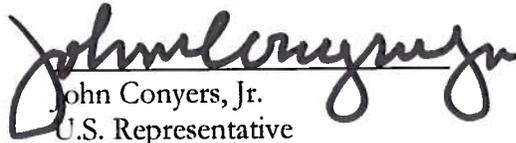
Wm Lacy Clay
U.S. Representative



Emanuel Cleaver, II
U.S. Representative



Gerry E. Connolly
U.S. Representative



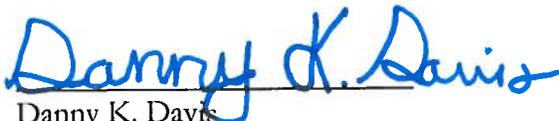
John Conyers, Jr.
U.S. Representative



Jim Costa
U.S. Representative



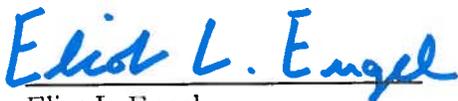
Jerry F. Costello
U.S. Representative



Danny K. Davis
U.S. Representative



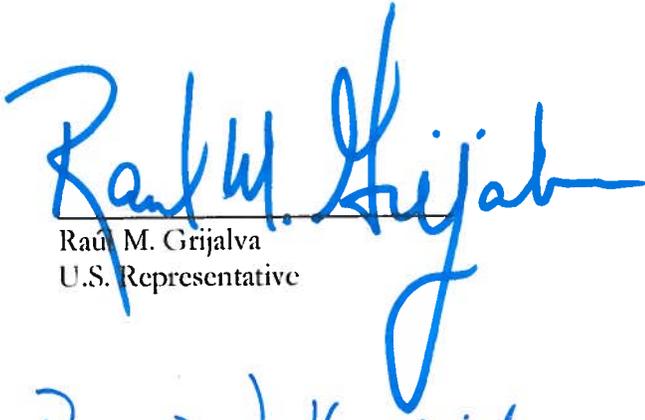
Susan Davis
U.S. Representative



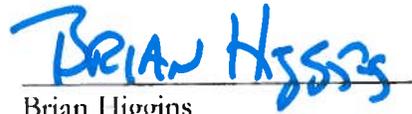
Eliot L. Engel
U.S. Representative



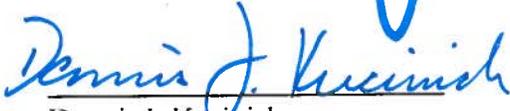
John Garamendi
U.S. Representative



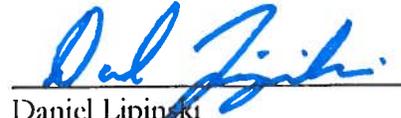
Raúl M. Grijalva
U.S. Representative



Brian Higgins
U.S. Representative



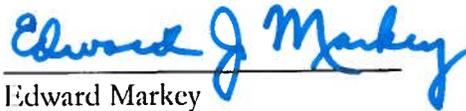
Dennis J. Kucinich
U.S. Representative



Daniel Lipinski
U.S. Representative



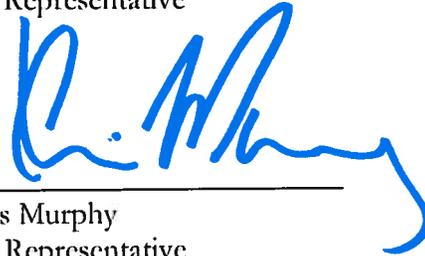
Sander M. Levin
U.S. Representative



Edward Markey
U.S. Representative



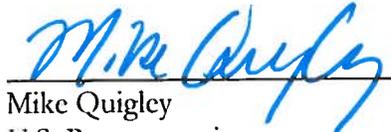
Jim Moran
U.S. Representative



Chris Murphy
U.S. Representative



Donald M. Payne
U.S. Representative



Mike Quigley
U.S. Representative



Brad Sherman
U.S. Representative



Jackie Speier
U.S. Representative



Bennie Thompson
U.S. Representative



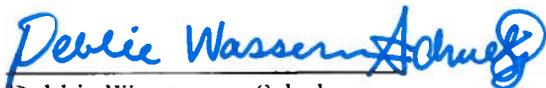
Niki Tsongas
U.S. Representative



Gary C. Peters
U.S. Representative



Richard E. Neal
U.S. Representative



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
U.S. Representative



Henry A. Waxman
U.S. Representative

Cc: Senator Murray
Senator Collins
Representative Latham
Representative Olver