



October 26, 2009

Senator Patty Murray, Chair
Senate Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
173 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Christopher Bond, Ranking Member
Senate Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
274 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman John V. Olver, Chair
House Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Tom Latham, Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
2217 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: FY10 Transportation Appropriation – Support for \$4 billion investment in High Speed and Intercity Rail

Dear Senator Murray, Senator Bond, Congressman Olver, and Congressman Latham:

The New England Rail Coalition (NERC) writes today to urge you to adopt the \$4 billion investment in high-speed passenger rail included in the House of Representatives' version of the FY10 transportation appropriations bill.

NERC is a broad-based collaboration of business interests, planning organizations, transportation and environmental advocates, and current and former legislators who recognize the need for significantly greater investment in passenger and freight rail in our region. We believe an enhanced and expanded rail network is essential to safeguarding the economic competitiveness of our region and our nation, as well as reducing the significant economic, environmental, and social costs associated with our current, predominantly highway-oriented transportation system. Investing in high speed and intercity rail will put people to work, reduce greenhouse gases and other pollution, cut

energy consumption and reliance on foreign oil, promote sustainable economic development, and provide necessary transportation choices.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's (ARRA) significant investment in high speed and intercity rail was a critical first step in beginning to build the rail system our nation needs and deserves. However, that initial investment will be far from sufficient in meeting the substantial rail investment needs that exist across the nation, including in New England. As you know, applications for high speed and intercity rail funding have *greatly* exceeded the amount allocated under ARRA.

It is essential that Congress provide the funds necessary to build upon and leverage ARRA's preliminary investment in high speed and intercity rail. NERC urges you to adopt the \$4 billion appropriation included in the House version of the transportation appropriations bill, to ensure that our nation stays firmly on a path toward building a rail system for the 21st century and securing the many economic, environmental and social benefits that will result from that system.

Respectfully,

Michael Dukakis

Former Governor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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Association for Public Transportation

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Fmr. Rep. John A. Businger (MA)

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Connecticut Southern Railroad

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Molly McKay

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Representative David McCluskey (CT) (20th Assembly District)

Deputy Speaker, Connecticut House of Representatives
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National Corridors Initiative (founded 1989)

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New England Association of Regional Councils

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1000 Friends of Connecticut

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cc: Senator Robert C. Byrd
Senator Barbara Mikulski
Senator Herb Kohl
Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Byron Dorgan

Senator Patrick Leahy
Senator Tom Harkin
Senator Dianne Feldstein
Senator Tim Johnson
Senator Frank Lautenberg
Senator Arlen Specter
Senator Richard Shelby
Senator Robert Bennett
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson
Senator Sam Brownback
Senator Lamar Alexander
Senator Susan Collins
Senator George Voinovich
Congressman Ed Pastor
Congressman Ciro Rodriguez
Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur
Congressman David E. Price
Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard
Congresswoman Marion Berry
Congresswoman Carolyn C. Kilpatrick
Congressman David R. Obey]
Congressman Frank R. Wolf
Congressman John R. Carter
Congressman Steven C. LaTourette
Congressman Jerry Lewis