



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

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The Honorable John Boehner
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U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C.20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
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The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
United States House of Representatives
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C.20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
United States House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Shuster and Representative DeFazio:

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) would like to thank the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for its expeditious work to reauthorize the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015 (H.R. 749) and would urge the House to pass the bill in the same timely manner. We believe it is in our nation's interest to provide our rail system with the same financial security as other modes of transportation such as our 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.

As the U.S. House of Representatives debates H.R. 749, NCSL would urge the chamber to recognize how integral intercity passenger rail systems have been to alleviating congestion and environmental concerns in the nation. Additionally, we believe that the reforms approved by the committee in Sec. 203 that require greater data sharing of service costs and ridership forecasts, amongst other information, from the national passenger rail system to states provides a foundation for states to meet their expanded role in high-speed and intercity passenger rail. Federal support for these efforts is imperative.

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

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Sincerely,



Senator Deb Peters
South Dakota Senate
Co-Chair, NCSL's Standing Committees



Representative Mary Jane Wallner
New Hampshire House of Representatives
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Attached: [NCSL's Our Nation's Rail System Policy Directive](#)