

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

June 17, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I am pleased to support the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's application for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements program funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration. If awarded, funding will support the Hiawatha West Project.

The Hiawatha West Project will expand intercity passenger rail service to Waukesha, Jefferson, and Dane counties while strengthening a critical freight corridor that supports Wisconsin's economy. This investment will better connect major population and employment centers, improving mobility for residents, families, workers, and businesses across the region.

The project delivers clear economic benefits. It will support business growth, improve access to jobs, and expand workforce mobility across southeastern Wisconsin. By enhancing connectivity and reliability, it will also help attract private investment and increase tourism, driving new economic activity in communities along the corridor.

Additionally, the project provides substantial freight rail benefits. Upgrading existing infrastructure will improve safety, reduce delays, and enhance reliability for freight operators moving goods critical to Wisconsin's manufacturing, agricultural, and energy sectors. These improvements will strengthen regional supply chains and improve the efficiency of goods movement throughout the Midwest.

I strongly support proposals that invest in our rail transportation infrastructure. For this reason, I respectfully request that full and fair consideration be given to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's application. Please keep my office updated on the progress of this application by email at projects_grants@baldwin.senate.gov. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator