

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 09, 2019

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we strongly urge you to provide at least the 2019 enacted level of funding for Amtrak in FY 2020, which will allow them to continue current services and invest in critical capital improvements.

Passenger rail is a vital part of our transportation network, helping to reduce congestion, improve efficiency, and connect towns and cities across America. As the only nationwide intercity passenger rail service, Amtrak covers more than 21,400 miles of rail lines and serves 500 communities across 46 states. System-wide, Amtrak customers took 31.7 million trips in FY 2018—almost half of whom traveled on a state-supported route. Amtrak set another record for revenues with a 2.5 percent increase over FY 2017 and sustained strong system ridership in 2018. Amtrak's *Northeast Corridor* (NEC) transported 12.1 million riders in 2018, and demand continues to grow steadily.

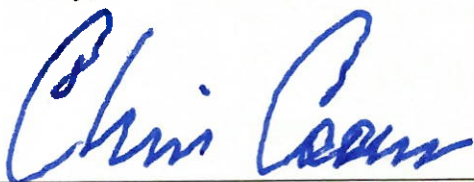
We especially urge you to continue to support Amtrak's long distance and state-supported routes, which provide intercity transportation throughout the country. While the NEC is known for linking major cities from Washington, DC, to Boston, Amtrak's operation outside of the NEC is critically important to the nation's economy. We additionally urge you to consider addressing issues related to on time performance (OTP), including the enforcement of preference, which is already law. In 2018, long distance trains were on time at stations only 43% of the time, a decline of 2% compared to 2017. These delays impact our constituents that use passenger rail service throughout the National Network.

Amtrak continues to show a strong pattern of efficiency improvements. They reduced their net operating loss to \$171 million in FY 2018, the lowest in their history. With sufficient federal support and continued funding for important programs such as the Federal Railroad Administration's Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair, Amtrak's efficiencies will continue in FY 2020, enabling them to maintain services throughout the network. Strong funding will also help Amtrak, in partnership with state governments and regional rail services, address the

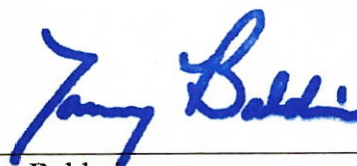
billions of dollars in backlog for much-needed infrastructure upgrades on the NEC required to achieve a state of good repair. Many of the NEC bridges and tunnels are now over a century old, and the average age of Amtrak's equipment fleet is the oldest in the company's history. Finally, this funding will allow Amtrak to continue to implement critical safety measures for all passengers and help make their stations and services more accessible to individuals with disabilities.

We must continue to reinvest in the future of passenger rail. If not, the progress made in recent years will be jeopardized, and our ability to meet the current and future needs of both the NEC and the National Network will be compromised. We urge you to support robust funding to meet critical needs for Amtrak in FY 2020. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

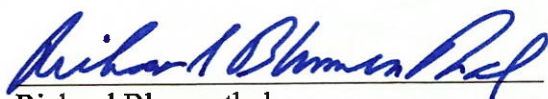
Sincerely,



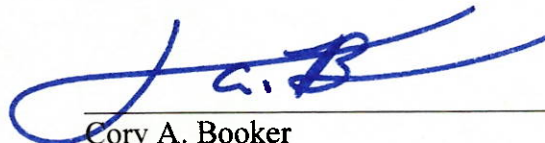
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator




Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator




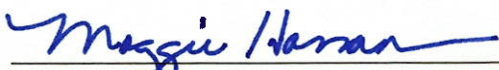
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

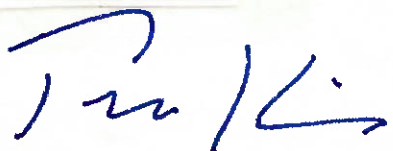

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

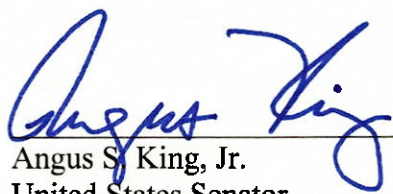

Tammy Duckworth
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Richard J. Durbin
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Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

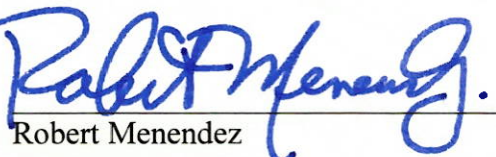

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

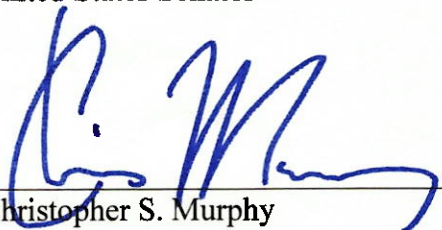

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Edward J. Markey
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Robert Menendez
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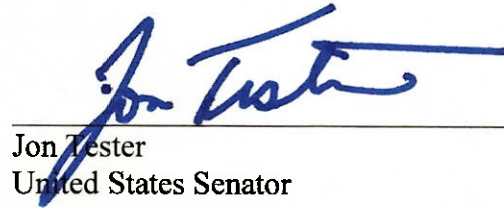

Gary C. Peters.
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

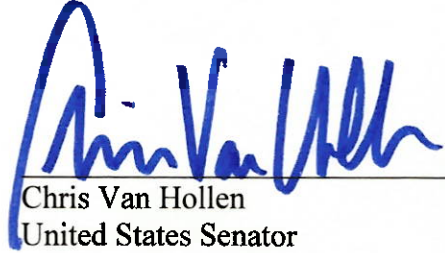

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Debbie Stabenow
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Jon Tester
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



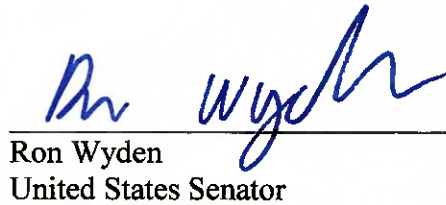
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Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator