

October 22, 2009

**States of
Illinois**

Iowa

Michigan

Ohio

Wisconsin

**City of
Chicago**

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
United States Senate
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1102

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development and Related Agencies
173 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4701

The Honorable David R. Obey
United States House of Representatives
Chair, House Committee on Appropriations
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4907

The Honorable John W. Olver
United States House of Representatives
Chair, House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Inouye and Murray and Representatives Obey and Olver:

We write today to express our support of your efforts to fund the states passenger rail efforts in federal Fiscal Year 2010 (FY2010) appropriations bills.

The funding provided through the Passenger Rail Investment Act of 2008 (PRIIA) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) once grants are announced by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) will provide a substantial jump start to the development and construction of our states' passenger rail projects.

Each of our states have submitted applications for track one, two, three and four grants under the ARRA submission process developed by the FRA. However, we recognize there will be intense competition for this funding. Consequently, the need for continued federal funding for states' passenger rail efforts will be critical to the success of our projects in the Midwest, and across the nation.

We want to thank you for your strong support of passenger rail funding in the House and Senate appropriations bills. The House bill provides \$4 billion for state passenger rail funding¹; the Senate bill provides \$1.2 billion. As the House and Senate move forward to reach consensus on their differences between the two bills, we respectfully ask you to support the higher level of funding contained in the House bill. We know that there is great demand for these funds among states and that the funds will be deployed quickly to projects that will not receive funding under the current PRIIA and ARRA application process. According to the Federal Railroad Administration states submitted ARRA discretionary grant pre-applications worth \$103.5 billion nationwide, and \$13.3 billion in the Midwest alone. These funds will allow states to begin construction of their rail projects, putting our citizens to work soon on these projects.

¹ We understand that the House bill funds states passenger rail projects at the \$2 billion level and provides an additional \$2 billion for the National Infrastructure Bank, if that program is authorized in the fiscal year. If not, we understand that the additional \$4 billion may be used for the state passenger rail grants.

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
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The Honorable John W. Olver
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On behalf of our eight Midwest states and the City of Chicago, thank you for your leadership and support of the states' work to achieve the vision of a new passenger rail network in the United States.

Sincerely,



Pat Quinn, Governor
State of Illinois



Ted Strickland, Governor
State of Ohio



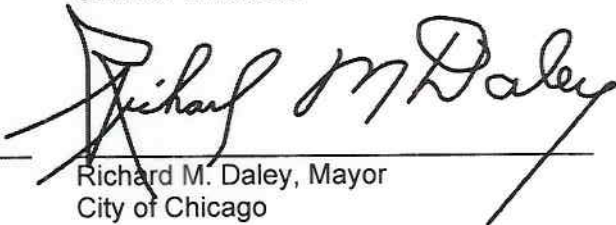
Chester J. Culver, Governor
State of Iowa



Jim Doyle, Governor
State of Wisconsin



Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
State of Michigan



Richard M. Daley, Mayor
City of Chicago

CC: The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Christopher S. Bond, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies
The Honorable Thomas Latham, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies