

House Appropriations Committee
H-218 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 2009

US House Appropriations Members,

The United States Public Interest Research Group applauds the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Subcommittee for including an historic investment of \$4 billion in high speed passenger rail in the transportation portion of the FY 2010 budget. This allocation will help meet the enormous nationwide demand fostered by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. **We respectfully request that you reject any efforts during the full committee mark-up to remove or decrease the funding for high speed passenger rail.**

High-speed passenger rail will provide clean, safe, reliable and efficient travel between America's population centers. Long-term federal investment in rail will also create tens of thousands of quality American jobs in states that have experienced losses in the technology, construction, and engineering sectors over the last decade.

Americans are turning to passenger rail in record numbers. Rail travel ridership increased each of the last six years, while vehicle miles traveled for cars and trucks has fallen over the last two years for the first time since the oil crisis of the 1970s.

State and local leaders are searching for the means to meet this demand. According to the US Department of Transportation, the Federal Railroad Administration has received close to 300 pre-applications from 40 states totaling more than \$100 billion in requests for high speed intercity passenger rail grant funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Now more than ever, we need federal investment to match this enormous national demand for a stronger, faster, more competitive rail system. **We urge you to support the full investment included in the high speed rail program of the FY 2010 transportation budget.**

Thank you for your leadership,

John M. Krieger
Federal Transportation Policy Analyst
US Public Interest Research Group
(202) 546-9707 x.333
JKrieger@pirg.org