



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **ONERAIL COALITION CALLS ON CONGRESS TO INVEST IN RAIL AS PART OF BALANCED APPROACH TO MEET CLIMATE, ENERGY CHALLENGES**

Washington, D.C. June 4, 2009 - The OneRail Coalition urges House lawmakers to incorporate investment in passenger and freight rail into the surface transportation legislation currently being drafted to ensure a balanced approach to addressing our nation's surface transportation challenges.

In a letter to Chairman James L. Oberstar and Ranking Member John L. Mica of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (<http://transact.org/onerail/>), the OneRail Coalition suggests that rail should play an important role in helping the nation to enhance mobility, achieve energy efficiency, reduce climate related emissions, boost economic growth and improve quality of life for all Americans.

The members of OneRail believe that the surface authorization legislation now being considered offers a major opportunity to incorporate rail into our national transportation system. To raise the role of rail in our transportation system, OneRail members urge lawmakers to:

(1) Make rail passenger and freight infrastructure projects eligible expenditures to the degree that general fund revenues are the source for the federal surface transportation program.

The President's FY 2010 budget recognizes the possibility that substantial funds will be necessary to maintain highway and transit expenditures at current levels. Eligibility for freight and passenger rail infrastructure for general funds allocated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides sound precedent for a broader, outcome-oriented approach to surface transportation investment.

(2) As part of any restructuring of the surface transportation program, establish an ongoing, dedicated funding source for intercity passenger rail expansion, including high-speed rail.

“OneRail members believe the forthcoming surface transportation authorization can be transformative. We look forward to working with lawmakers in the House and Senate to expand the role of both freight and passenger rail in our nation’s transportation system,” said Anne Canby, President of the Surface Transportation Policy Partnership and OneRail coalition member.

As the House moves forward with climate change legislation and discussions with the Senate proceed, the Coalition also asks that transportation investment be considered as part of this important national discussion. Ultimately, an allocation of revenues anticipated from climate change initiatives could help support an outcome-oriented transportation program focused on modes that will lower carbon emissions and conserve energy - including rail.

The OneRail coalition brings passenger and freight stakeholders together for the first time. OneRail was organized to educate decision-makers at the federal, state, and local levels about the benefits of rail transportation and to promote investment in both freight and passenger rail infrastructure. The goal of the group is to expand the opportunities for investment in rail as a key tool for economic growth. Another major goal is publicizing the role of rail as a means to reduce the nation’s dependence on fossil fuel and to reduce carbon emissions in the transportation sector.

The OneRail Statement of Principles is at <http://transact.org/onerail/principles.asp>

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### **OneRail Members**

**The American Public Transportation Association:** APTA is a nonprofit international association of more than 1,500 member organizations including public transportation systems; commuter and passenger railroads; planning, design, construction and finance firms; product and service providers; academic institutions; and state associations and departments of transportation.

**The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA)** is a non-profit trade association that represents the interests of its more than 400 short line and regional railroad members in legislative and regulatory matters. Short line and regional railroads are an important and growing component of the railroad industry. Today, they operate and maintain 29 percent of the American railroad industry’s route mileage, and account for 9 percent of the rail industry’s freight revenue and 11 percent of railroad employment.

**Amtrak** has posted six consecutive years of growth in ridership and revenue, carrying more than 28.7 million passengers in the last fiscal year. Amtrak provides intercity passenger rail service to more than 500 destinations in 46 states on a 21,000-mile route system. For schedules, fares and information, passengers may call 800-USA-RAIL or visit Amtrak.com.

**Association of American Railroads (AAR)** is the world's leading railroad policy, research and technology organization focusing on the safety and productivity of rail carriers. Its members include the leading freight railroads in the United States, Canada and Mexico, as well as Amtrak and other passenger lines.

**Building America's Future** ([www.InvestInInfrastructure.org](http://www.InvestInInfrastructure.org)) is a bipartisan and non-profit organization dedicated to bringing about a new era of U.S. investment in infrastructure that enhances our nation's prosperity and quality of life. Comprised of state and locally elected officials from around the nation, Building America's Future seeks to advance a new national vision for infrastructure investment that focuses on economic growth and global competitiveness, creation of economic opportunity for all Americans, and environmental sustainability.

**National Association of Railroad Passengers** (NARP) is the largest, citizen-based advocacy organization for train and rail transit passengers. Founded in 1967, the Association-with about 24,000 individual members-works to expand the quality and quantity of U.S. passenger train service. The organization's mission "is to work towards a modern, customer-focused national passenger train network that provides a travel choice Americans want."

**National Railroad Construction Maintenance Association** (NRC) is the only trade association organized specifically to serve the needs of railroad contractors, suppliers, and the entire railroad and rail transit construction industry.

**The Natural Resources Defense Council** is a national, nonprofit organization of scientists, lawyers and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. Founded in 1970, NRDC has 1.2 million members and online activists, served from offices in New York, Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Beijing.

**The Railway Supply Institute, Inc** is an international association of the railway and rail rapid transit supply industry that represents over 250 rail suppliers. RSI works to promote the needs of the railway supply industry and its customers through working with Congress, regulatory agencies, state governments, and other rail transportation related organizations.

**The States for Passenger Rail Coalition**, established in early 2000, is an alliance of state departments of transportation that supports intercity passenger rail initiatives and advocates for federal funding.

**The Surface Transportation Policy Partnership** is a diverse, nationwide coalition working to ensure safer communities and smarter transportation choices that enhance the economy, improve public health, promote social equity, and protect the environment.