



April 25, 2018

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
S-146a, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Member Leahy:

As you consider FY19 302(b) subcommittee appropriations allocations, we write to urge you to invest as robustly as possible in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Subcommittee.

We congratulate you on the two-year budget deal struck in February which provided the necessary funds to make meaningful investments in the American economy, and we applaud the bipartisan focus on transportation and infrastructure in the completed FY18 appropriations bill.

However, even with a funding agreement in place, we recognize that there are no easy choices to be made in the budget and appropriations process. We respectfully submit that the growth of the domestic economy and the creation and support of high-quality, well-paying jobs must be our top priority, and that an extensive and well-functioning domestic transportation infrastructure system is an essential prerequisite to a healthy economy.

In FY18, the historic investments in transportation and infrastructure were welcome and important, and we believe they were prioritized well by the House and Senate THUD Subcommittees, but they are only the beginning of what must become a long and sustained effort to meet America's infrastructure needs. In FY19, crucial transportation infrastructure programs must continue to be funded at similar or increased levels to facilitate the activity expected in our growing economy.

As the Administration's 2018 proposal for Rebuilding Infrastructure in America [states](#), *"Our Nation's infrastructure is in an unacceptable state of disrepair, which damages our country's competitiveness and our citizens' quality of life...The United States has fallen further and further behind other countries. It is time to give Americans the working, modern infrastructure they deserve."*

The OneRail Coalition intends to work with the THUD Subcommittees to urge that the maximum possible funding be allocated to various transportation infrastructure accounts, but as you know their ability to invest in these critical programs will be dependent on the Subcommittee allocations.

The OneRail Coalition believes that rail is a crucial component of an efficient transportation network that allows people and goods to move quickly and safely to their destinations, enhancing productivity, creating