



May 11, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

As Congress continues work to address the impact of COVID-19, OneRail urges you to provide additional emergency response and recovery assistance for intercity, commuter rail, and rail transit service, as well as to protect rail workers and ensure sufficient benefits for them. These actions will help address the ongoing cost and revenue losses caused by the pandemic.

We thank you for your efforts in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) to provide emergency funding for rail and transit service, as well as needed updates to Railroad Unemployment Insurance (RUI). The CARES Act was a vital lifeline to keep these agencies running. Unfortunately, rail and transit agencies anticipate severe impacts for the foreseeable future and additional funding is necessary to help agencies address challenges throughout the next year. Investment in rail infrastructure, specifically for rail transit and Amtrak are critical to maintaining the manufacturing and supply chain as well as ensuring the continuation of essential maintenance, repair and equipment refurbishment or acquisitions.

Significant, urgent actions now could help prevent impacts as rail and transit agencies continue to address the effects of COVID-19 through next year. OneRail supports the following:

- Amtrak's initial estimates are that at least \$1.6 billion in additional federal support for COVID-19-related impacts for Amtrak and its state and commuter partners in FY21;
- APTA estimates that at least \$23.8 billion is needed for public transportation emergency response funding, including to address commuter rail service needs, through calendar year 2021;
- An additional \$11.5 million in administrative funds to support the Railroad Retirement Board, the removal of RUI from the effects of the sequester, and to treat RUI equivalently, if Congress expands or extends unemployment insurance;
- Rail workers, as well as other essential critical infrastructure workers, should be given priority access to testing, personal protective equipment, sanitizers, non-medical grade facial coverings, and other health-related or protective supplies necessary; and
- The rejection of controversial policy riders, such as permitting longer or heavier trucks on our nation's roads and bridges.

Passenger and freight rail service have been a critical part of keeping supply chains moving, providing transportation to essential workers, and maintaining rail and supplier jobs. Investments in rail will also help aid in the eventual economic recovery. As Congress considers additional economic recovery measures, OneRail also urges you to include rail investment in any package to address the long-term impacts to the economy. For example, increased investments in rail and multimodal programs like the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI), Railway-Highway Crossings Program (Section 130), Amtrak, Capital Investments Grant Program (CIG) and discretionary grant programs like BUILD and INFRA would result in increased jobs and long-term economic benefits.

The OneRail Coalition thanks you for your consideration and important work to address the immediate and long-term impacts of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anne Canby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anne" and last name "Canby" clearly distinguishable.

Anne Canby
Director, OneRail Coalition

cc: Senator Shelby
 Senator Leahy
 Senator Collins
 Senator Reed
 Representative Lowey
 Representative Granger
 Representative Price
 Representative Diaz-Balart