



April 19, 2022

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-146A, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy, Chair DeLauro, Vice Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Granger:

I write to you on behalf of the OneRail Coalition, a diverse group of rail stakeholders, including freight rail, commuter rail, intercity passenger rail, rail labor, and rail suppliers, who have come together to educate America about the benefits of strong freight and passenger rail systems. As you know, freight and passenger rail are a crucial component of an efficient transportation network—allowing people and goods to move quickly and safely to their destinations, while enhancing productivity and economic competitiveness, reducing transportation-related fatalities, creating good domestic jobs, reducing dangerous emissions, and relieving highway and air congestion.

We appreciate your ongoing bipartisan support of transportation, including rail and multimodal programs, in prior appropriations bills and urge you to continue robust investments in a strong and resilient infrastructure network. As the Committee prepares the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Appropriations bills, OneRail urges you to support a robust 302(b) allocation for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) subcommittee.

Through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58), Congress made a down-payment on historic investments that would address a significant backlog of passenger rail infrastructure and equipment needs, help alleviate port congestion to improve the functioning of supply chains, assist the rail industry in its decarbonization efforts, address our nation's transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, and improve safety. But for these investments to make the lasting impacts that Congress intended, it is essential that baseline funding for rail continue to be supported through the appropriations process and that funding isn't shifted away from the THUD Subcommittee allocation.

The OneRail Coalition thanks you and the entire Committee for the important work being done in developing the FY 2023 Appropriation bills. Together we can build more accessible, efficient, and safer systems. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at dbarnhart@onerail.org if we can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Devon Barnhart". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Devon Barnhart
Director, OneRail Coalition

Cc:

The Honorable Brian Schatz, Chairman

The Honorable Susan Collins, Ranking Member

The Honorable David Price, Chairman

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member