



March 3, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner  
House of Representatives  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**SUBJECT: Support for the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act**

The California Intercity Passenger Rail (CIPR) leadership coalition urges the House of Representatives to pass H.R. 749, the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015 (PRRIA), that supports continued capital and operating grants for Amtrak. The CIPR leadership coalition applauds the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee under the strong leadership of Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, Chairman Denham, and Ranking Member Capuano for the passage of this bill in the Committee.

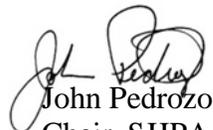
The CIPR leadership coalition is comprised of agencies representing California's three existing intercity passenger rail services (Pacific Surfliner/Southern California, San Joaquin/Central Valley, and Capitol Corridor/Northern California), which comprise nearly 20% of Amtrak passengers plus the two emerging IPR services (Los Angeles-Palm Springs and Los Angeles-Central Coast-San Francisco).

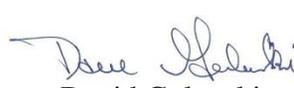
We appreciate the bill's intent to strengthen the country's intercity passenger rail system and the Committee's affirmation of the importance of a national passenger rail network. As the Committee notes, by 2039, the U.S. population will exceed 400 million and the population concentration in our urban areas is increasing. Mobility for our nation's citizens is critical to growing the U.S. economy. The costs of congestion and poor transportation infrastructure also continue to rise for commuters: almost \$121 billion each year in wasted time and fuel, up from only \$24 billion in 1982. In addition, Americans spend a staggering 5.5 billion hours annually stuck in traffic. Passenger rail presents one of the best hopes for solving these problems and relieving our congested highways and airspace.

We look forward to working with the leadership of the T&I Committee and leadership in the Senate to further strengthen this bill. In particular, the CIPR coalition will continue to work to educate the public and Congress about the need to provide the same dedicated funding for the national IPR network that is enjoyed by other modes. A predictable, dedicated, and robust federal funding source is essential to sustaining and improving the intercity passenger rail system and achieving a balanced transportation system that provides meaningful travel choices for Americans.

Sincerely,

  
Gail Murray  
Chair, CCJPA

  
John Pedrozo  
Chair, SJJPA

  
David Golonski  
Chair, LOSSAN

  
Dave Potter  
Chair, CRCC

Cc: CA Congressional Delegation