

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1317

October 1, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

The Honorable Ronald Batory  
Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao and Administrator Batory:

We write to express our strong support for the proposed state-supported Amtrak route between Chicago and Moline, Illinois, and to urge the Department of Transportation to issue an extension for the \$177 million in federal funding that has already been secured for the project.

Since the most recent extension of funds, we have been encouraged by negotiations between the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Iowa Interstate Rail regarding the scope of the project and infrastructure upgrades needed to convert the tracks for passenger service, and we were pleased when the entities agreed to move forward with the "Hybrid Alternative" set of capital improvements. An extension of these funds will allow these negotiations to continue and construction on the project to begin.

Additionally, both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have included language supporting an extension of this funding in their respective FY20 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Reports. This language passed on the floor of the House and was reported unanimously out of the Senate Appropriations Committee. We have enclosed the provisions at the end of this letter for your awareness.

As we have noted in previous correspondence, this project maintains strong support and commitment at both the state and local level. Illinois' newly elected governor has already renewed the state's financial commitment to the proposed state-supported Amtrak route between Chicago and Moline by providing \$225 million in state funding for the project in the state's recently passed capital bill. Additionally, the City of Moline has already converted a downtown warehouse into a multi-modal transportation center and hotel, which will serve as the train's station.

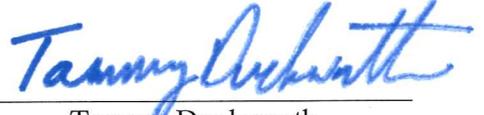
Thank you for your consideration and response to this important matter. We look forward to working with you to see this project over the finish line.

Sincerely,



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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Cheri Bustos  
United States Representative

**House THUD Report Passed on Floor**

*Quad Cities to Chicago passenger rail service.*—The Committee is encouraged by recent progress in negotiations between the State of Illinois and the Iowa Interstate Railroad relating to planning for new Chicago to Quad Cities state-supported intercity passenger rail service. Therefore, the Committee rejects the rescissions to the Capital Assistance for High Speed Rail Corridors and Intercity Passenger Rail Service program proposed in the budget request, and strongly reminds the Department that this fiscal year 2010 appropriated funding is available until expended. Further, the Committee directs FRA to work with grantees to reach agreement on a multi-year extension of existing grant agreements in order to ensure funds appropriated by Congress are utilized.

**Senate THUD Report Approved by Committee**

*Quad Cities to Chicago Rail.*—The Committee is encouraged by recent progress between the State of Illinois and the Iowa Interchange Railroad on planning for the new Quad Cities to Chicago State-supported Amtrak route. To ensure Federal funding remains available for the completion of the project, the Committee urges the FRA to provide a multi-year extension of the current grant agreement and encourages the FRA to increase its oversight role to ensure the project remains on track.