

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 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 Nita Lowey
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David E. Price
Chair
Subcommittee on Transportation, and
Housing and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
U.S House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, and
Housing and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Price, and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart,

Passenger rail service, whether intercity or commuter, is vital to the success of our regions and economy. As Congress works to address the impact of the coronavirus, airlines and airports have been an outsized part of the ongoing conversation. We urge you to ensure funding equity across transportation modes by providing significant funding to promote stability of rail and transit operations and support the workforce as well, both of which are impacted by the important public health measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Ensuring continuity of operations is vital for the communities and economies that rely upon rail and transit, and our historic under-investment in these programs—in contrast to the tens of billions of federal money airlines and airport operations receive every year—has put them in a precarious financial position. Despite the precarious financial position, rail and transit agencies are doing their part by scaling down service, increasing cleaning costs, and calling for reduced ridership.

To address immediate needs, we urge you to support at least:

- \$1 billion for Amtrak, with \$200 million for state-supported routes, to offset lost revenue;

- \$16 billion for transit, particularly funding to address commuter rail service, to offset increased costs, lost farebox and dedicated sales tax revenue, and anticipated restart costs.

Further, as we look to longer-term remedies to support the economy, we also urge you to provide investment in rail and transit infrastructure to grow these essential transportation networks. We should be making economically-smart, business-driven decisions about transportation investments, and rail and transit accrue more positive externalities and higher returns on investment than other transportation modes. These include economic development and efficiency, low emissions, passenger safety, and well-paying jobs—not to mention reduced congestion and efficient travel times.

We urge you to include rail and transit investment in any package to address the long-term impacts to the economy and stand ready to offer our recommendations for future investments when considering long-term economic stimuli after addressing the immediate health emergency. There's a reason why nearly every developed country around the world invests more in rail and transit than the United States: it's a good investment.

We recognize that passenger rail and transit are two among many priorities we must address as we continue to respond to the spread of COVID-19 and the associated economic downturn, yet we worry that these vital modes of transportation are being overlooked in the current negotiations. Passenger rail and transit must be included in any legislation to mitigate the economic impact of this pandemic.

Sincerely,



SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



BRIAN FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



TOM MALINOWSKI
Member of Congress



JEFF VAN DREW
Member of Congress



JOSEPH D. MORELLE
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress

Additional Signatories

1. Stephen F. Lynch
2. Jim Costa
3. Jerrold Nadler
4. Thomas R. Suozzi
5. Jamie Raskin
6. Andre' Carson
7. Adam Smith
8. Ayanna Pressley
9. Earl Blumenauer
10. Ro Khanna
11. Nydia M. Velázquez
12. Albio Sires
13. Donald S. Beyer Jr.
14. Darren Soto
15. Donald M. Payne, Jr.
16. Eleanor Holmes Norton