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*Bringing Together
State Leaders from
Across the Region
to Advocate
for Passenger Rail
Improvements*

May 19, 2005

Dear Midwestern Member of Congress,

The nation is facing a mobility crisis which affects all modes of transportation. The Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission urges Congress to:

- Develop a multimodal transportation policy to help solve this crisis;
- Provide full funding for Amtrak while reform options are being debated and agreed upon;
- Invest in rail the same way we invest in other modes of transportation (80/20 federal/state split);
- Authorize and fund a study of the condition and needs of the nation's transportation systems. The study should lead to development of a truly multimodal transportation policy for the nation.

States are looking to the federal government to provide leadership. Many are already taking the initiative – 24 states nationwide are actively pursuing interstate rail programs – but they can't do it on their own. Their plans cannot be realized without federal dollars.

The Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail commission – a compact commission of Midwestern state legislators, governors and their appointees – believes that there is a critical need for the development of faster, more frequent passenger rail service in our region.

The Commission strongly supports the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative and Ohio Hub Regional Rail plans to enhance the Midwest's passenger rail system. Improving this aspect of our transportation infrastructure would make us more competitive, stimulate the economy and create jobs, while easing congestion and improving air quality.

Thank you for discussing these issues with us. We look forward to your leadership and continued dialogue with us.