



701 E. 22nd Street
 Suite 110
 Lombard, Illinois 60148
 tel: 630.925.1922
 fax: 630.925.1930
www.miprc.org
 miprc@miprc.org

May 9, 2016 (updated May 11, 2016)

Dear U.S. Senators from Midwestern States,

Congress took an historic move forward in developing a truly multimodal transportation system in our nation with the passage of the FAST Act, by including a rail title for the first time in a transportation funding authorization.

Passenger rail development is very important to our states. Please see the attached "outside witness testimony" the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC) submitted to the U.S. Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee detailing our request and rationale.

MIPRC would like to see Congress move towards full funding of all the passenger rail-related provisions at the authorized levels within the FAST Act, but we understand the current fiscal constraints facing FY 2017 appropriations.

We do ask you to strongly support all of the passenger rail-related appropriations contained within the THUD appropriations legislation passed by the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee (S. 2844), including:

1. **Amtrak (\$1.075 billion for the National Network**, including up to \$2 million for use of the State-Supported Route Committee; and **\$345 million for the NEC**);
2. Appropriations for all three of the new FAST Act passenger rail-related grant programs:
Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Grants at \$50 million;
Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair at \$20 Million; and
Restoration & Enhancement Grants at \$15 million; and
3. **TIGER (National Infrastructure Investments) at \$525 million**

Thank you in advance for your protection of all of these important appropriations as S. 2844 is considered on the floor of the Senate. Please feel free to contact MIPRC's director, Laura Kliewer (630.925.1922, kliewer@miprc.org) with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Tim Hoeffner
 MIPRC Chair

Joan Bray
 MIPRC Vice Chair

Sen. Carolyn McGinn
 MIPRC Financial Officer

Laura Kliewer
 MIPRC Director

Attachment: MIPRC OWT to Senate Appropriations subcommittee re FY 2017 appropriations 041516.pdf

Chair
 Mr. Tim Hoeffner, Michigan

Vice Chair
 Ms. Joan Bray, Missouri

Financial Officer
 Sen. Carolyn McGinn, Kansas

Director
 Laura Kliewer

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

The Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission is a nine-state interstate compact commission that promotes, coordinates and supports regional improvements to passenger rail service. Our member states include Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wisconsin.