

Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commissior

Sen. Joan Bray, Missouri
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Sen. Sheila Kiscaden, Minnesot
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Sen. DiAnna Schimek, Nebrask
Financial Office

Dear Midwestern Member of Congress,

The Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC) was formed through compact legislation, as Midwestern state legislators and governors saw the need for improved passenger rail service in their states and the importance of working together to bring about these improvements. The states of Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and Ohio are currently members of the MIPRC.

As a Member of Congress from an MIPRC state, we ask you to support:

- **A dedicated, multi-year federal capital-funding program for intercity passenger rail**, patterned after the existing federal highway, airport and mass transit programs. States have already shown that they are willing to help fund passenger rail, but a substantive federal commitment is needed. We support an 80/20 federal/state funding percentage.
- **A preserved and improved national passenger rail system** – a nationwide, interconnected passenger rail system that stimulates higher levels of efficiency, innovation and responsiveness. This should be reflected in a national federal policy that is developed with state and local input, and funded and overseen through the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- **Federal funding of Amtrak in FY '04 at \$1.8 billion.**
- **An earmark of \$7 million in the FY 2004 transportation appropriations bills for the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative (MWRRI).** This regional earmark will allow the states of Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio and Wisconsin to conduct an initial environmental, planning and engineering study for this passenger rail system. The system will establish a 3,000-mile Chicago-hubbed passenger rail system, providing increased safety, frequency and speed in passenger rail service in the Midwest.

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

641 E. Butterfield Road ♦ Suite 401 ♦ Lombard, Illinois 60148

Tel: 630/810-0210 ♦ Fax: 630/810-0145