



**Midwest Interstate  
Passenger Rail  
Commission**

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*Bringing Together*

*State Leaders from*

*Across the Region*

*to Advocate*

*for Passenger Rail*

*Improvements*

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Dear Midwestern Member of Congress,

Increasing America's energy independence and securing the safety of our citizens are overriding national concerns. As we look to the future of passenger transportation, the development of frequent, more efficient passenger rail service is an important part of the solution that we can no longer afford to overlook. Passenger rail is the most fuel- and emission-efficient means to move people and goods. Intercity passenger rail can also play a very important role in helping to meet growing demand placed on our highway and aviation systems. Also, according to a recent Harris Poll, Americans want to see a larger share of passengers and freight going by rail over any other transportation mode.

The Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission urges that:

- Congress fund Amtrak at \$1.8 billion for FY 2007 (this includes \$1.6 billion to keep the current national system running, \$100 million for a state matching program for new passenger rail development and \$50 million for freight congestion mitigation);
- Investment in intercity rail must be part of a national transportation and energy policy;
- Congress pass legislation that reauthorizes Amtrak and establishes long-term, dedicated funding for intercity rail (80/20 federal/non-federal split), such as are proposed in HR 1630, HR 1631 and S 1516.

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.