

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 19, 2018

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairwoman Collins and Ranking Member Reed,

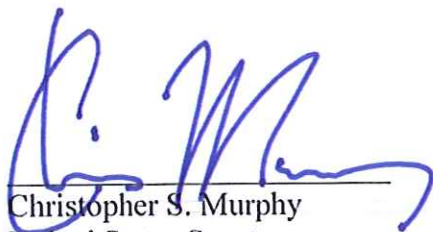
As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations bill, we write to respectfully request \$500 million to fund the Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair (SGR) Program and \$255 million to fund the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program. The SGR Program is perhaps the most critical program to enhance the safety and reliability of our nation's busiest passenger and freight rail network—the Northeast Corridor—while maximizing the return of federal investments. Our \$500 million request for the program is consistent with the funding level passed by the House of Representatives in FY 2018. As you know, the CRISI Program was authorized by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of passenger and freight rail systems. We respectfully request that you fund the CRISI Program at \$255 million, an amount equal to the authorized level for FY 2019 in the FAST Act. Out of our \$255 million request for the program, we request that \$150 million be set aside for Positive Train Control (PTC) implementation grants with a preference for commuter rail operators.

America's passenger and freight rail networks form the backbone of our economy. From the freight and state-supported passenger rail routes in rural America to the nation's busiest passenger rail system in the Northeast Corridor (NEC), tens of millions of Americans rely on our rail system to safely and reliably move people and goods across our country. In particular, the economic impact of the Northeast Corridor (NEC) cannot be overstated: seven million jobs are located within five miles of a station on the line; workers who ride the NEC contribute \$50 million annually to the U.S. economy; and a loss of the NEC for a single day would cost the U.S. \$100 million in travel delays and lost productivity. However, as any commuter or traveler on the NEC can attest, the infrastructure is at risk of failing. The NEC has a current state of good repair backlog of over \$30 billion, and the corridor's most heavily trafficked bridges and tunnels are well over a century old. Moreover, because service levels have virtually reached capacity, even more investments will be required to expand service to meet projected increases in ridership and to fully realize the transformative potential of the NEC. NEC stakeholders and states have worked diligently together to improve the corridor and to fund capital projects, and a strong federal investment in the SGR Program would be a catalyst for further collaboration and additional non-federal investment.

On behalf of our millions of constituents who depend on a safe a reliable rail network, we urge you to fund the SGR Program in the FY 2019 THUD Appropriations bill at \$500 million and the

CRISI Program at \$255 million, with \$150 million set aside for PTC implementation grants with a preference for commuter rail operators. We appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



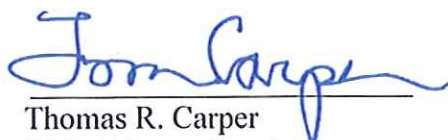
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



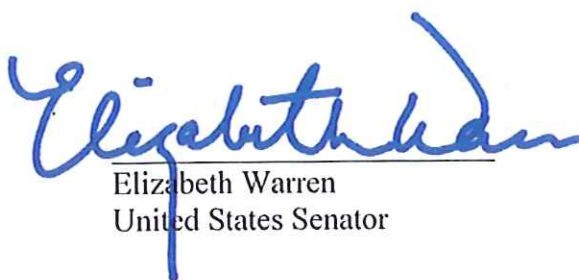
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



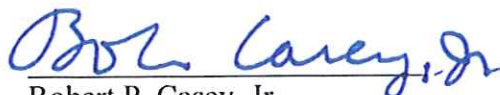
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



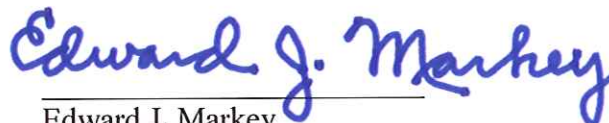
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator