

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves,

On behalf of Cascadia Rail and our 3,000+ high speed rail advocates from Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia, we write in appreciation of your leadership and express our strong support for H.R. 7095, INVEST in America Act.

The INVEST in America Act makes a visionary \$60 billion investment in commuter rail and \$19 billion investment in modernizing passenger rail, which could help fund high speed rail systems across the country, such as the Cascadia High Speed Rail project in the Pacific Northwest.

Passage of H.R. 7095 would help grow the economy and create family-wage jobs in addition to funding sustainable infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions. According to the Washington State Department of Transportation, an investment in the Cascadia High Speed Rail project brings an 8:1 ROI with \$355 billion in economic growth, creates 200,000 construction jobs, and reduces carbon emissions by 6 million metric tons.

The INVEST in America Act is critical to our economic recovery, both for supporting our existing transportation systems as well as looking ahead as we plan for the future. As the saying goes, "The best time to start was yesterday. The next best time is now." By investing in our national infrastructure today, we can drive our economy for years to come.

Thank you again for your leadership on these issues.

Best,

Paige Malott

Chair

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