



March 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

As Congress works to address the impact of COVID-19, OneRail urges you to provide quick and robust action to ensure stability of operations for intercity and commuter rail service and to protect rail workers and ensure sufficient benefits for them. As you look to additional remedies to bolster the economy, we also urge you to provide long-term investment in rail infrastructure to grow these essential transportation networks and support the extensive rail supply chain.

Significant, urgent actions now could help stymie potentially irreversible impacts. OneRail supports the following requests:

- \$1 billion for Amtrak, including \$200 million for their state partners, to offset revenue losses;
- \$16 billion for public transit, particularly funding to address commuter rail service, to cover increased costs, farebox revenue losses, decline in dedicated sales tax revenue, and anticipated restart costs; and
- \$20 million for the Railroad Retirement Board's administration of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA) to administer the large influx of RUIA applications and ensure compliance with any process changes. Congress should also waive the 7-day waiting period for applying for RUIA benefits. Further, to create parity with other UI programs, Congress should remove RUIA from the list of programs subject to sequestration cuts.

Investments in rail also help to drive the economy and build critical infrastructure to aid in the eventual economic recovery. OneRail urges you to include rail investment in any package to address the long-term impacts to the economy. For example, increased investments in rail and multimodal programs like the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI), Railway-Highway Crossings Program (Section 130), Amtrak, Capital Investments Grant Program (CIG) and discretionary grant programs like BUILD and INFRA would result in increased jobs and long-term economic benefits.

The OneRail Coalition thanks you for your consideration and important work to address the immediate and long-term impacts of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Canby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne Canby
Director, OneRail Coalition

cc: Senator Shelby
Senator Leahy
Senator Collins
Senator Reed
Representative Lowey
Representative Granger
Representative Price
Representative Diaz-Balart