



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

Bill Shuster
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

Peter A. DeFazio
Ranking Member

February 2, 2016

Christopher P. Bertram, Staff Director

Katherine W. Dedrick, Democratic Staff Director

The Honorable Tony Coscia
Chairman of the Board
National Railroad Passenger Corporation
50 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Chairman Coscia:

We write to express our views regarding Amtrak's ongoing search for a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to replace Joseph Boardman. We believe this is a pivotal moment for Amtrak, and the future of passenger rail generally in America. As you know, we just enacted a reauthorization of Amtrak in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act). Our motivating factor for getting this rail reauthorization done was giving Amtrak the tools to tackle the major looming challenges it faces. We believe Amtrak's next CEO must be a visionary leader with the skill set necessary to implement the FAST Act reforms quickly, and move Amtrak forward.

The FAST Act authorized five years of funding for the nation's surface transportation programs, including, for the first time ever, rail activities and Amtrak. Amtrak's inclusion in the multi-year surface transportation act shows that there is bipartisan support for continued intercity passenger rail service to our communities. Amtrak's recent performance has improved; ridership is up, revenue is growing, and debt is down.

The FAST Act builds on this momentum, and further leverages Amtrak to meet our future transportation needs. Amtrak's Northeast Corridor is the definition of a nationally significant transportation facility, and its continued operation and improvement is essential to the economic performance of some of the country's largest metropolitan regions. Similarly, Amtrak's short-haul, state-supported routes provide important connections between our larger cities. Finally, Amtrak's long distance routes provide national connectivity, but must be managed efficiently in a time of tight budgetary resources.

It is for these reasons that we made passing an Amtrak reauthorization a priority of our chairmanships over the last several years, and that's why it got done as part of the FAST Act. The FAST Act included significant reforms designed to reorganize Amtrak by lines of business so it would be better positioned to meet future challenges. This includes more transparency and accountability in Amtrak's finances and operations, which will help Amtrak more effectively manage its business units and provide better service to customers and state partners. The FAST

Act also includes a number of provisions to begin to address the state-of-good-repair backlog along the Northeast Corridor, through better planning, focused grant programs, and an authorization and internal accounting structure that will allow reinvestment of Northeast Corridor surplus revenues into the corridor itself.

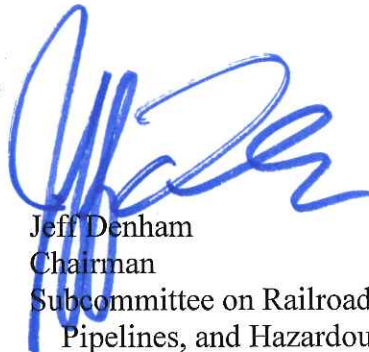
Securing these reforms was a victory, but Amtrak needs the right leader to use these tools to make progress on the significant infrastructure, operational, and organizational challenges the railroad faces. After passage of the FAST Act, Mr. Boardman announced his intention to retire as Amtrak CEO and President, and we thank him for his dedication and service. We understand the Amtrak Board of Directors has begun a search for the next Amtrak CEO. Again, we urge the Board to search for a dynamic leader who has the vision and management strength necessary to successfully implement the FAST Act reforms. Amtrak is at a critical juncture, and we believe the next CEO must have experience in implementing change within large organizations with a significant footprint and assets.

We believe that type of CEO will allow Amtrak to implement the FAST Act reforms, continue to improve Amtrak performance, and be better positioned to meet the tough challenges that lay ahead for the railroad.

Sincerely,



Bill Shuster
Chairman



Jeff Denham
Chairman
Subcommittee on Railroads,
Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials

Identical letters sent to:

Hon. Anthony Foxx, U.S. Secretary of Transportation
Hon. Joseph Boardman, President and Chief Executive Officer
Hon. Jeffrey R. Moreland, Vice Chairman
Hon. Christopher R. Beall, Director
Hon. Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Director
Hon. Thomas Carper, Director
Hon. Albert DiClemente, Director