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*Bringing Together  
State Leaders from  
Across the Region  
to Advocate  
for Passenger Rail  
Improvements*

The Midwest Interstate  
Passenger Rail Commission is  
an eight-state interstate  
compact commission that  
promotes, coordinates and  
supports regional  
improvements to passenger  
rail service. Our member  
states include  
Illinois, Indiana, Kansas,  
Michigan, Minnesota,  
Missouri, North Dakota and  
Wisconsin.



May 19, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves, Chair  
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Ranking Member  
U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

Transmitted via Email: [Justin Harclerode](#) (T&I Republicans) | [Peter True](#) (T&I Democrats)

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

At first glance, the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC) finds a lot to like in the passenger rail-related provisions of the newly released proposal of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee for surface transportation reauthorization, the "Build America 250 Act."

We appreciate your leadership, and the entire committee's work in a bipartisan fashion to draft legislation that will guide federal investments in passenger rail through 2031.

While MIPRC will continue to assess the Build America 250 Act in detail, we are thankful to see authorization for strong annual funding for Amtrak and a set aside for the State-Supported Route Committee.

We are also very glad to see critical discretionary grant programs like CRISI, Railroad Crossing Safety Improvements & Elimination, and Corridor Identification & Development, renewed outright. We're likewise pleased to see the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail, Restoration & Enhancement and Interstate Rail Compacts grants continued.

Many of these provisions (and others in the draft legislation) match ones in [MIPRC's surface transportation reauthorization principles](#).

MIPRC thanks the Committee for its work to date and looks forward to learning more about the Build America 250 Act and to working with the Committee and other Members of Congress to further refine the country's next surface transportation reauthorization bill.

Sincerely,

Laura Kliewer  
MIPRC Director