

Chair, **Patricia Quinn**, NNEPRA  
Vice Chair, **David Kutrosky**, CCJPA  
Treasurer, **Paul C. Worley**, North Carolina DOT

*States for*  
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September 29, 2015

Representative Bill Shuster, Chair  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2268 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Peter Defazio, Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2134 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC)

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Defazio,

I write on behalf of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc. (SPRC) to request action on the impending December 31, 2015 deadline to implement positive train control (PTC).

SPRC members sponsor 28 intercity passenger routes serving 296 communities across America. Last year our trains carried nearly 15 million passengers, representing nearly 49% of Amtrak's total ridership. We also contributed \$766 million in revenues to Amtrak, through \$486 million in passenger revenues plus \$280 million in contract payments.

As intercity passenger rail service sponsors, SPRC members are steadfastly committed to safety. Safety is critical to our service, passengers, employees and the communities we serve. We recognize that deployment of the new technologies presents challenges. We also agree that the roll-out of PTC must be fail-safe, effective and efficient. Collectively, SPRC members have invested hundreds of millions of dollars towards the installation of PTC and cannot risk a potential interruption in service which could result from the enforcement of the current time-frame.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has reported to the Congress (GAO 15-739) that most railroads do not expect to meet the 2015 deadline.

The Acting Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has testified before the Congress that FRA is charged with enforcing compliance with the deadline, and that the agency intends to enforce the law.

The Association of American Railroads (AAR), which represents the nation's Class I freight railroads, has advised that the industry is beginning to notify their customers of the possibility of an impending national rail service shutdown. The subsequent shut-down of passenger and freight transport will inflict significant hardships on businesses and passengers alike and have a deleterious and long-lasting impact on the economy as well as upon the other modes of the national transportation system.

The America Public Transportation Association (APTA), whose membership includes the nation's commuter railroads, has advised that despite the commuter rail industry's best efforts, implementing PTC nationwide by the end of this year is not possible.

California  
Connecticut  
Illinois  
Indiana  
Iowa  
Louisiana  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
Maine  
Michigan  
Minnesota  
Missouri  
Nevada  
New York  
North Carolina  
Oklahoma  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania  
Texas  
Vermont  
Virginia  
Washington  
Wisconsin  
Capital Corridor  
Joint Powers  
Authority  
Northern  
New England  
Passenger  
Rail Authority

Amtrak has reported to the Congress that they expect to have PTC implemented on the Northeast Corridor in compliance with the deadline. However, Amtrak has advised other service sponsors that they expect to cease taking reservations next month for the long distance national network and for state sponsored trains, depending upon action by the host freight railroads.

SPRC joins these and other respected professional organizations in requesting that Congress act soon to extend the December 31, 2015 deadline for implementation of PTC, and pledges to work with all parties for a successful and timely roll-out of this safety-critical initiative.

Sincerely,



Patricia Quinn  
Chair, States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc.  
Executive Director, Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority

cc: Secretary Anthony Foxx, US Department of Transportation  
Acting Administrator, Sarah Feinberg, Federal Railroad Administration  
Ed Hamberger, President and CEO, Association of American Railroads  
Joseph Boardman, President and CEO, National Railroad Passenger Corporation  
Michael Melaniphy, President and CEO American Public Transportation Association  
Bud Wright, Executive Director, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials  
Governor Gary Herbert, Chair, National Governor's Association