

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 2, 2009

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairman  
Transportation, Housing, and  
Urban Development  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Olver  
Chairman  
Transportation, Housing, and  
Urban Development  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
1111 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Christopher Bond  
Ranking Member  
Transportation, Housing, and  
Urban Development  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
128 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Latham  
Ranking Member  
Transportation, Housing, and  
Urban Development  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
2217 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Chairman Murray, Chairman Olver, Ranking Members Brownback and Latham:

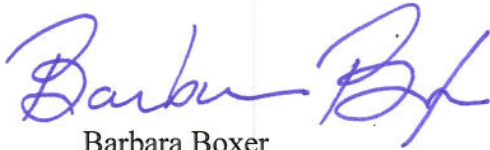
As you begin conference negotiations on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Bill, we respectfully request that you maintain the Senate-passed funding level for the Railroad Safety Technology Grant Program. This new program was authorized in the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA) to provide important funding for the implementation of positive train control (PTC) and other critical rail safety technology improvements, and was authorized at \$50 million in FY 2010.

Last year, a tragic collision of a commuter rail train and a freight train in Chatsworth, California killed 25 people and left 135 injured. Facts discovered in the National Transportation Safety Board's initial accident investigation indicate that positive train control could have prevented the accident. RSIA mandates the installation of positive train control on track shared by freight and commuter rail by 2015.

These are difficult economic times and many commuter rail agencies are facing budget cuts. Funding to assist railroads in meeting this mandate is needed now more than ever. We cannot afford to take a step backward when it comes to funding vital rail safety improvements, particularly on our nation's busiest commuter-freight corridors.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of rail safety and for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator



John D. Rockefeller IV  
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
The Honorable Thad Cochran  
The Honorable Dave Obey  
The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations Conferees  
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Conferees