

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 20, 2026

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
Chair
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Appropriations Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kristen Gillibrand
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
Senate Committee on
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Hyde-Smith and Ranking Member Gillibrand:

We write today to request the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development provide full funding for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program in the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations bill.

Congress created CRISI in 2015 as a comprehensive program to fund projects ranging from rail research at universities and training programs for workers to safety and other capital improvement work along passenger rail lines and short line freight railroads. The program's flexibility is fundamental in allowing crucial projects to move forward to enhance the overall safety and efficiency of our Nation's rail systems.

In particular, CRISI has been a valuable resource for the first-mile and last-mile movement of freight, which plays a critical role in supporting our economy. Given the challenges global supply chains have faced in recent years, it is important to invest in programs like CRISI, which mitigate congestion, remove bottlenecks, and increase efficiency, especially for key sectors like agriculture and manufacturing.

Since 2017, CRISI has invested \$5.2 billion in projects across 48 states and the District of Columbia. This history of success led to a substantial increase in CRISI's funding levels in the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA); the bipartisan infrastructure law provided \$1 billion per year in advance appropriations for CRISI, as well as an additional \$1 billion per year in authorizations.

We urge you to recognize the program's potential for continued success and provide robust funding for CRISI in FY27. A well-funded CRISI program will ensure that more worthy projects are funded and promote a safer and more efficient rail system for shippers, consumers, workers, and passengers alike.

We appreciate your leadership in prioritizing funding for our Nation's transportation and

infrastructure programs and look forward to continuing that work in this year's appropriations process.

Sincerely,



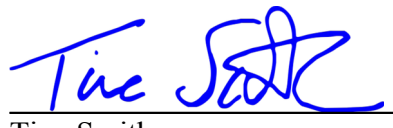
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



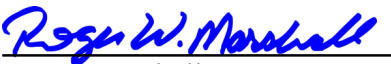
Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



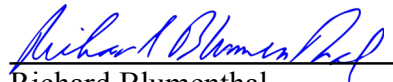
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator



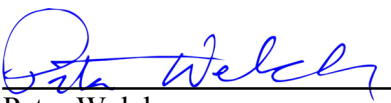
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



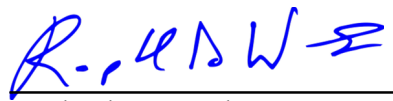
Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



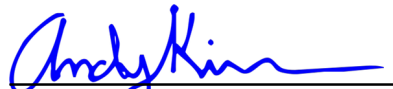
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



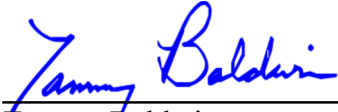
Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



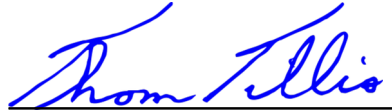
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



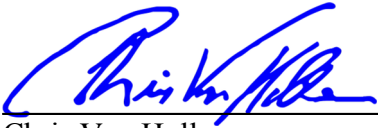
Andy Kim
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



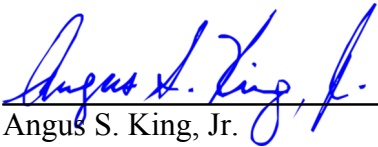
Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



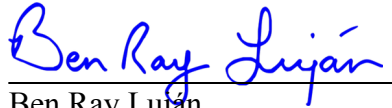
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



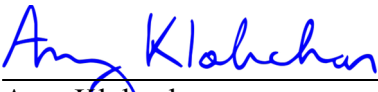
Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



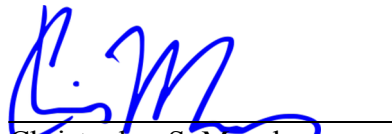
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



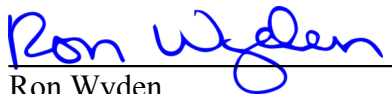
Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator



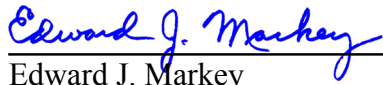
Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



James Risch
United States Senator