

# 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



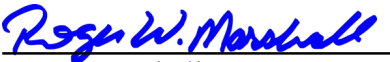
Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



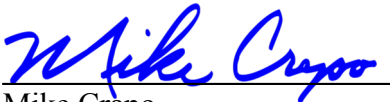
Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.  
United States Senator



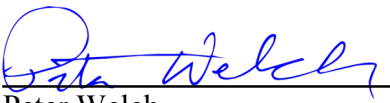
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



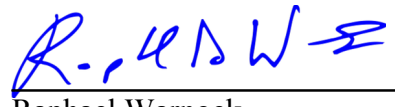
Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator



Peter Welch  
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



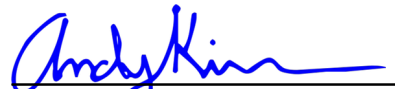
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



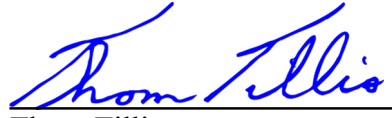
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



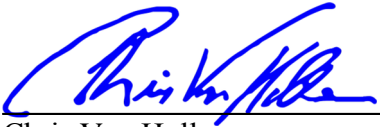
Andy Kim  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



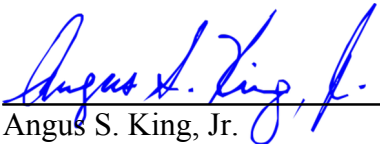
Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



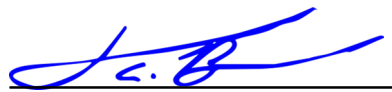
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



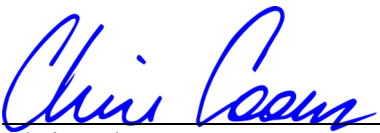
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



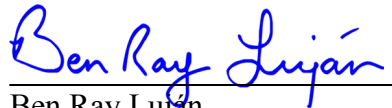
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



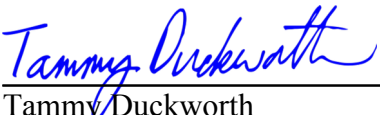
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



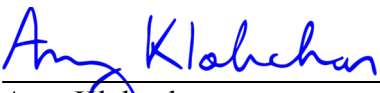
Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



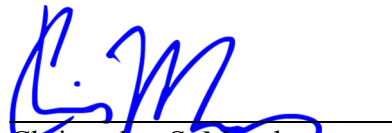
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



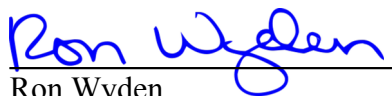
Lisa Blunt Rochester  
United States Senator



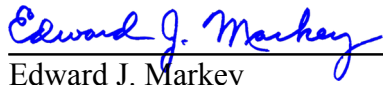
Elissa Slotkin  
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



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Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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James Risch  
United States Senator