

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 21, 2025

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 that the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development provide robust funding for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program in the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) 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.

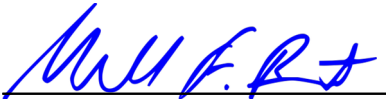
In particular, CRISI has been a valuable resource for the first-mile and last-mile movement of freight, which plays a critical role in supporting our economy. Given the challenges that global supply chains have faced in recent years, it is important to invest in programs like CRISI, which mitigate congestion,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

In FY25, the Senate THUD recommendation for CRISI was \$375.8 million. Therefore, we urge you to recognize the program's potential and provide robust funding for CRISI in FY26 at or above the FY25 recommendation. 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,



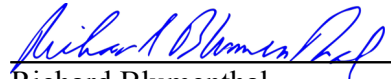
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator



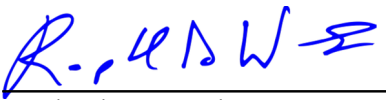
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



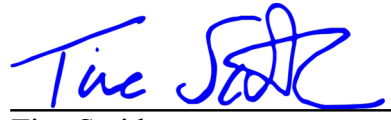
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Peter Welch  
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



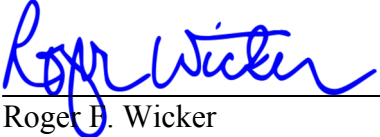
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



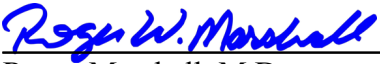
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



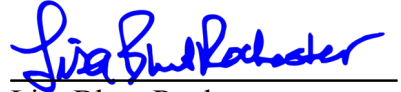
Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff  
United States Senator



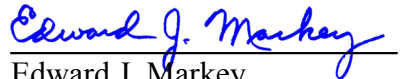
Roger Marshall, M.D.  
United States Senator



Lisa Blunt Rochester  
United States Senator



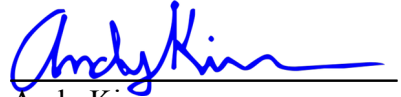
James E. Risch  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



Andy Kim  
United States Senator



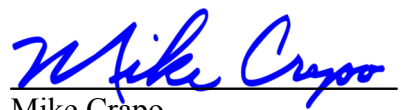
Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



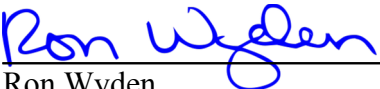
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



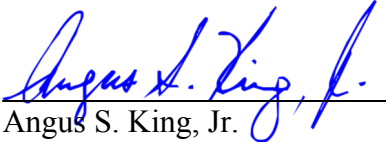
Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



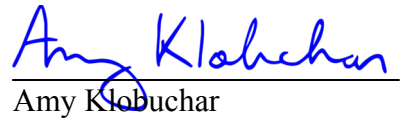
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator




Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator