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

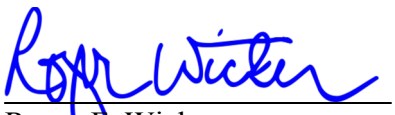
Tina Smith
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

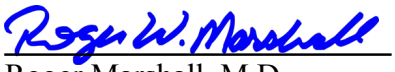
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



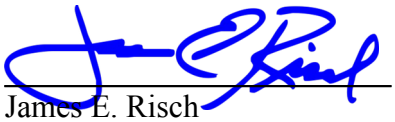
Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator

Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

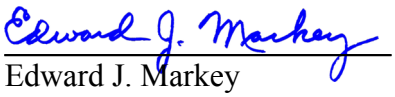


Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator

Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator

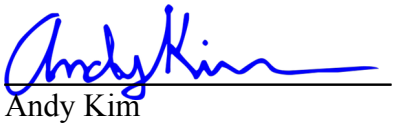


James E. Risch
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



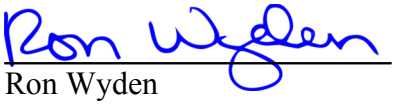
Andy Kim
United States Senator

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
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Bernard Sanders
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