

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 4, 2023

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Schatz and Ranking Member Hyde-Smith:

We write today to request that the subcommittee provide robust funding for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program in the FY24 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

In 2015, Congress created CRISI as a wide-reaching program that could fund rail research at universities, training programs for workers, and safety and other capital improvement projects along passenger rail lines and short line freight railroads. This flexibility has been key in allowing a variety of crucial projects to move forward that have enhanced 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 is an integral part of our supply chains. Agricultural producers and industrial manufacturers rely on this service to get their goods to market, and CRISI has helped fund projects that mitigate congestion, remove bottlenecks, and increase efficiency.

Since 2017, CRISI has invested \$1.5 billion in projects across 47 states and the District of Columbia.¹ This track record of success led to a substantial increase in CRISI's funding levels in the 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.

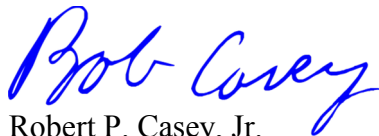
The FY24 President's Budget Request included a \$510 million request for CRISI. While this is a significant investment, additional dollars will improve safety and service for all. **We urge you to further expand the program's potential and provide robust funding in FY24.** A well-funded

¹ The 47 states that have benefited from one of 208 awards include Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

CRISI program will ensure that more worthy projects are funded and promote a safer and more efficient rail system for freight 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,



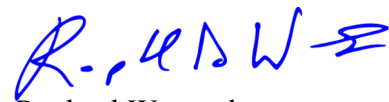
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
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Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



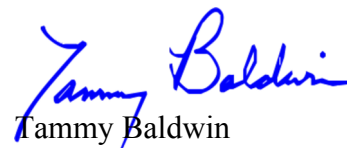
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United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
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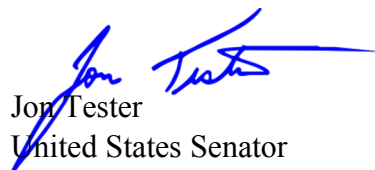
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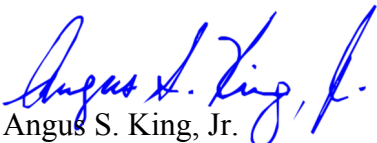
Jon Tester
United States Senator



Tina Smith
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Mike Crapo
United States Senator



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United States Senator



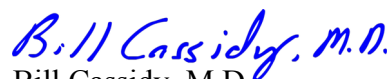
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



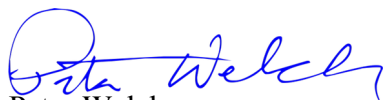
Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



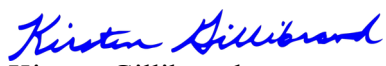
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



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