

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2023

Amit Bose
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

As members of Washington's Congressional Delegation, we write to reaffirm our support for high speed rail and improved intercity passenger rail service in Washington state and the Pacific Northwest.

While the Cascadia Ultra-High-Speed Ground Transportation (UHSGT) project did not receive a Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail – National (FSP-National) grant, we are pleased to see awards for both Cascadia UHSGT and the Amtrak *Cascades* Corridor under FRA's Corridor Identification and Development Program (CID). These investments are an important first step in investing in rail in the region that will help create a long-term development pipeline of capital projects, take meaningful steps to link communities and improve intercity passenger rail service in the Pacific Northwest. We look forward to working with FRA and Washington state to unlock further funding for Cascadia UHSGT under CID and to pursue future FSP-National funding opportunities.

Cities and counties across the nation want more frequent and more reliable intercity passenger rail service, and the Pacific Northwest is no exception. The combined population of Seattle, Washington, Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, British Columbia, is expected to grow by up to four million people by 2050. Reliable and efficient passenger rail service is and will continue to be essential to connecting communities across Washington.

In 2022, the Washington State Legislature allocated \$4 million for additional analysis and \$150 million to be used as matching funds for federal funding opportunities to support the Cascadia UHSGT proposal to connect Vancouver, B.C., to Portland via high speed rail. This visionary project will not only bring travel up to 250 mph between cities along this route, but also lead to better jobs, affordable housing, climate initiatives, increased tourism and economic growth.

Washington has long been committed to improved rail service and since 2006 has invested in the state-supported *Cascades* route. Just this fall, Washington and Oregon announced two additional Amtrak *Cascades* daily roundtrips between Seattle and Portland. Local leaders in Washington know that investing in passenger rail service will help communities grow and thrive, creating jobs and providing a cleaner and greener way to get to work, and to provide educational and recreational opportunities.

As Washington continues to invest in intercity passenger rail and identify new opportunities to bring high speed rail to the region, we want a strong partnership with FRA to make these projects

a reality. Congress enacted historic levels of rail funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including \$12 billion in guaranteed funding for Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail grants on the national network, to help communities across the country modernize vital rail infrastructure, improve or expand service, and establish new rail service.

We thank you for your partnership and look forward to continuing to work with FRA to improve intercity passenger rail service, including bringing high speed rail to the Pacific Northwest.

Sincerely,



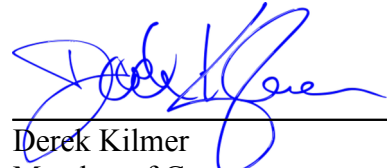
Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
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