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PAUL D. TONKO

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
20TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
MANUFACTURING, AND CRITICAL MATERIALS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY, CLIMATE, AND GRID SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Amit Bose
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

I write in support of the applications submitted by the New York State Department of Transportation (“NYSDOT”) for funding from the Corridor Identification and Development (“Corridor ID”) Program. This funding will be used enhance the safety, reliability, and speed of intercity passenger rail service throughout the State and its connecting corridors.

The New York State Department of Transportation is seeking federal support to further develop the State’s two primary rail corridors: the Empire and Adirondack Corridors. The Empire Corridor connects New York City and Niagara Falls, providing for the transporting of large numbers of people and goods that would otherwise move via highway and air travel corridors. The Adirondack Corridor is the oldest state-supported service in the Amtrak system, with service initiated on August 5, 1974. The Adirondack connects the largest metropolitan area in the United States (New York) with the second largest metropolitan area in Canada (Montreal).

The Empire Corridor is a vital transportation route of national significance and is essential to New York’s economy. Funding from the Corridor ID Program will transform the Empire Corridor into a world-class passenger and freight rail network with broad transportation, economic, and community benefits throughout the northeast. For the Adirondack Corridor, NYSDOT’s primary interest is implementing incremental improvements, along with completion of a customs pre-clearance facility in Montreal to open opportunities for a second daily round trip service during the overnight hours.

Like you, I am committed to revitalizing our communities through sound investment to build resilient, sustainable infrastructure. Your full and fair consideration of this request, consistent with current laws, rules, regulations, and agency policy, is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Tonko".

PAUL D. TONKO
Member of Congress