

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2019

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairwoman Collins and Ranking Member Reed,

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations bill, we write to respectfully request \$500 million to fund the Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair (SGR) Program.

The Federal-State Partnership SGR grant program, which was authorized in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, aims to help finance projects that reduce the state of good repair backlog on publicly-owned or Amtrak-owned infrastructure, equipment, and facilities. This backlog stands at approximately \$40 billion in the Northeast Corridor (NEC), representing a serious threat to the nation's economy. Amtrak and commuter railroads on the NEC transport 800,000 people daily, and the workforce that travels on the NEC contributes roughly \$50 billion to the economy. However, the specter of the state of good repair backlog causing delays or track closures is a constant concern. According to the Northeast Corridor Commission, "The loss of the NEC for a single day could cost the country \$100 million in added congestion, productivity losses, and other transportation impacts."

Given this impact on the regional and national economy, restoring the NEC and other rail networks to a state of good repair must be one of our top priorities. Last year, Congress provided \$400 million for SGR grants in the FY19 THUD bill. Increasing this investment to \$500 million, which could be leveraged via state matching requirements to hundreds of millions of dollars in additional funding, is the best course of action for a nation looking to upgrade its transit infrastructure.

On behalf of our millions of constituents who depend on a safe and reliable rail network, we thank the Subcommittee for its support in previous years' appropriations bills for this critical program, and we urge you to fund the SGR Program in the FY 2020 THUD Appropriations bill at \$500 million. We appreciate your attention to this important matter.



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Sincerely,



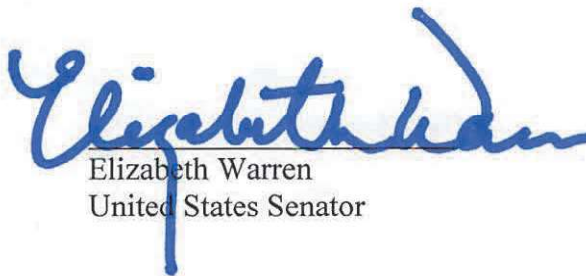
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



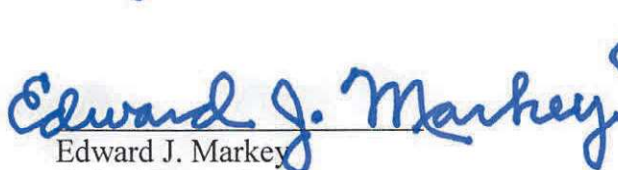
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



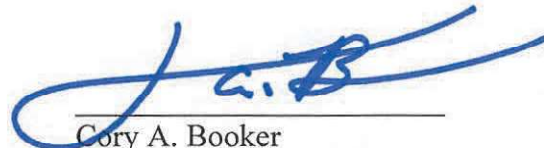
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



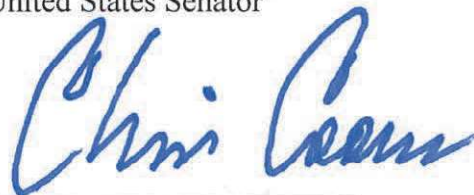
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator