



Commonwealth of Virginia

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RICHMOND

July 10, 2017

The Honorable Mark Warner
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Kaine
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Wittman
2055 Rayburn House Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Scott Taylor
412 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Donald McEachin
314 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thomas Garrett, Jr.
415 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
2309 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dave Brat
1628 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Beyer
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Morgan Griffith
2202 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Comstock
229 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gerry Connolly
2238 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Virginia House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia, we wish to express our opposition to the cuts to rail transportation funding in the proposed federal budget for FY 2018, which would zero out funding for long-distance Amtrak trains, several of which are frequently utilized by our constituents. The administration's

proposal would eliminate train service in 23 states, and 220 localities from across the country would lose passenger rail service, including many in Virginia. It would also create greater problems for Virginia's partnership efforts with the federal government, including the Northeast Regional service we presently have or have planned.

Of the 140 Delegates and Senators in the Virginia General Assembly, 111 represent districts within a 20-mile radius of an Amtrak station. Long distance trains take Virginians to Boston, New York, Chicago, Florida, and New Orleans. These same trains link Virginians to many smaller communities along the routes which do not have airports nearby, including Virginia cities like Danville, Staunton, and Clifton Forge.

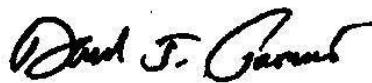
Over the last decade, increasing numbers of Virginians have recognized passenger rail as a key element of our transportation options. The Commonwealth has also invested state dollars to help create additional service into the Northeast corridor. We helped fund a new service route between Lynchburg and Washington, D.C., which is now among the most profitable route in the national system, and we are making plans for the extension of that service to Roanoke. We have also partnered with Amtrak to extend direct rail service beyond Richmond to Newport News, Petersburg and Norfolk, with bus links to Virginia Beach. Finally, the state recently obtained a major grant designed to improve Inner City rail up and down the D.C.-to-Raleigh corridor. It's clear to us that Virginians want more passenger rail, not less, and the administration's efforts to eliminate federal funding will substantially undermine these efforts.

We believe that states will need to take a more active role in providing for passenger rail, but it must be in partnership with the federal government; we simply do not have the resources to go it alone. For these reasons, we strongly encourage you to advocate to restore funding for Amtrak service so that our mutual constituents can continue to be served by this mode of transportation.

Sincerely,



Delegate William J. Howell
(R-28th District)
Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates



Delegate David J. Toscano
(D-57th District)
House Democratic Leader



Senator Richard L. Saslaw
(D-35th Senate District)
Senate Democratic Leader



Delegate Charniele L. Herring
House Democratic Chair
(D-46th District)



Delegate Lashrecse D. Aird
(D-63rd District)

Delegate Terry L. Austin
(R-19th District)



Delegate Lamont Bagby
(D-74th District)



Senator George L. Barker
(D-39th Senate District)



Delegate Richard P. Bell
(R-20th District)



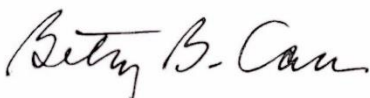
Delegate Jeffrey M. Bourne
(D-71st District)



Delegate Jennifer B. Boysko
(D-86th District)



Delegate David L. Bulova
(D-37th District)



Delegate Betsy B. Carr
(D-69th District)



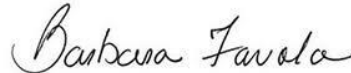
Delegate Glenn R. Davis
(R-84th District)



Senator R. Creigh Deeds
(D-25th Senate District)



Senator William R. DeSteph, Jr.
(R-8th Senate District)



Senator Barbara A. Favola
(D-31st Senate District)



Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn
(D-41st District)



Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
(R-24th Senate District)



Delegate Stephen E. Heretick
(D-79th District)



Delegate Daun Sessoms Hester
(D-89th District)



Delegate Patrick A. Hope
(D-47th District)



Delegate Mark L. Keam
(D-35th District)



Delegate L. Kaye Kory
(D-38th District)



Delegate Paul E. Krizek
(D-44th District)



Delegate R. Steven Landes
(R-25th District)



Delegate Mark H. Levine
(D-45th District)



Senator David W. Marsden
(D-37th Senate District)



Senator T. Montgomery Mason
(D-1st Senate District)



Senator Jennifer L. McClellan
(D-9th Senate District)



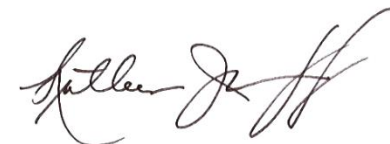
Senator Jeremy S. McPike
(D-29th Senate District)



Delegate Delores L. McQuinn
(D-70th District)



Delegate Michael P. Mullin
(D-93rd District)



Delegate Kathleen J. Murphy
(D-34th District)



Delegate Robert D. Orrock, Sr.
(R-54th District)



Senator Mark J. Peake
(R-22nd Senate District)



Senator J. Chapman Petersen
(D-34th Senate District)



Delegate Kenneth R. Plum
(D-36th District)



Delegate Marcia S. Price
(D-95th District)



Delegate Sam Rasoul
(D-11th District)



Delegate Roxann L. Robinson
(R-27th District)



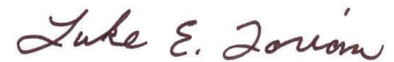
Delegate Mark D. Sickles
(D-43rd District)



Delegate Richard C. Sullivan, Jr.
(D-48th District)



Senator Scott A. Surovell
(D-36th Senate District)



Delegate Luke E. Torian
(D-52nd District)



Delegate Ronald A. Villanueva
(R-21st District)



Delegate R. Lee Ware
(R-65th District)



Delegate Vivian E. Watts
(D-39th District)



Senator Jennifer T. Wexton
(D-33rd Senate District)



Delegate David E. Yancey
(R-94th District)



Delegate Matthew James
(D-80th District)



Delegate Alfonso Lopez
(D-49th District)