



June 8, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves,

As members of the Coalition for the Northeast Corridor (CNEC), we are writing to express our concern for the recently proposed new public-benefit corporation in the surface transportation authorization called the North Atlantic Rail Corporation (NARC) tasked with developing a high-speed rail service in the Northeast region. Investment in rail infrastructure is essential to the movement of passengers and goods across the country; however, we must complete existing programmatic directives for the Northeast Corridor before establishing new ones. Therefore, as the Committee develops its infrastructure package, we urge the Committee to prioritize funding and expansion opportunities for existing programs across the Corridor. For this reason, we are extremely pleased that the Committee included \$25 billion for the BeST Program that will address the needs of the Northeast Corridor.

Comprised of a diverse set of stakeholders who rely on the Northeast Corridor (NEC or the Corridor) to conduct commerce, access customers, and transport employees, the CNEC serves as the business community's voice for strengthening rail infrastructure to reduce congestion, create jobs, and grow the economy. With the recent release of President Biden's Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget, it is clear that investment in the Northeast Corridor is a priority for the Administration and the Department of Transportation. While our Coalition supports programs that expand rail capacity and benefit commuters across the region, we do not believe that establishing a new program would serve as the best use of federal resources and assets along the Corridor.

The Northeast Corridor holds the ability to modernize, expand, and serve as an innovative model for rail infrastructure across the nation. Rather than focus on authorizing new programs with unfunded mandates and missions, the Coalition believes it is essential to fund existing programs, fulfill the much-needed investment, and address backlogs that have stifled innovation and investment along the NEC.

Investments in the Corridor's existing rail infrastructure and a focus on completing outstanding projects present the best and most effective use of federal funding. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you as we prioritize investments in our rail infrastructure to cement our nation's role in creating 21st Century rail networks.

Sincerely,
The Coalition for the Northeast Corridor