



April 5, 2022

To: Chair, Rep. Frank Hornstein  
House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee  
485 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Vice Chair, Rep. Erin Koegel  
House Transportation Committee  
485 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

From: All Aboard Minnesota  
P.O. Box 4212  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
[www.allaboardmn.org](http://www.allaboardmn.org)

Dear Chair Hornstein and Vice Chair Koegel,

On behalf of All Aboard Minnesota, we want to sincerely thank the House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee for your continued support of passenger rail in this year's House Transportation Omnibus HF 1683. We are grateful for the Committee's funding last year to provide the matching funds that will enable a 2<sup>nd</sup> Train Frequency between the Twin Cities and Chicago, and are grateful for your funding this year of the Northern Lights Express and operating support for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Train.

All Aboard Minnesota is a non-profit citizen advocacy group that represents more than ***2,500 members, friends and supporters throughout the state*** that actively seek more rail passenger service statewide as a needed transportation option and which will economically benefit the communities served and the state.

**The Committees ongoing support for passenger rail will benefit Minnesota in several ways:**

- ❖ More passenger rail service provides the backbone of a statewide public transportation network benefitting college students, families with children, seniors, disabled, and those who can't drive or fly, as a mobility option. Provides "all weather" transportation especially in treacherous winter conditions
- ❖ Provides economic stimulus, jobs, local investment, tourism, and a positive return on investment for Minnesota
- ❖ Utilizes public-private partnerships with freight railroads and Amtrak, minimizing capital expense and operating costs using existing infrastructure. Investment in passenger rail benefits freight operations, speeding goods and services
- ❖ Connects urban metropolitan areas to rural communities, which are largely reliant upon highways alone
- ❖ Provides economic competitiveness with other states in the upper Midwest such as Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan which have made significant investments in passenger rail

Minnesota deserves a multi-modal, all-weather transportation network that serves all of its citizens with the options they need. Highways and airways can no longer do this alone. The Committee's investment in passenger rail will benefit the lives of potentially hundreds of thousands Minnesotans, provides economic benefits to the state and the communities passenger rail serves, and reduces dependencies on highways and greenhouse gases. All Aboard Minnesota looks forward to working with the Committee in future years to provide more passenger rail service in Minnesota and connecting us to the upper Mid-west.

Best Regards, Board of Directors  
All Aboard Minnesota  
612-781-2894

