

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 5, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On August 24, 2009, the Commonwealth of Virginia submitted the first of several grant applications for the Federal Railroad Administration's High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program. The Commonwealth recently submitted its next round of grant applications on October 2, 2009.

We are writing to share with you our support for the applications and for achieving a comprehensive high speed rail program in the Commonwealth. Virginia is in a unique position as the gateway to the Southeast Corridor, linking the heavily utilized Northeast Corridor with growing population points in our Commonwealth and points south. High-speed rail provides a sensible and viable solution to the Commonwealth's transportation challenges and it will provide much needed new jobs and economic growth throughout the region. Virginia, working with its freight railroads, Amtrak, Virginia Railway Express, business and government leaders, will demonstrate that this historic investment in rail will create jobs, reduce congestion, spur economic growth, and improve our environment.

Enclosed is a summary of Virginia's program (as provided by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation), which has been under development for several years. Senators Jim Webb and Mark Warner sent a similar letter to you on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

We look forward to the Department's support and your leadership in this effort. Please continue to keep us informed.

Sincerely,



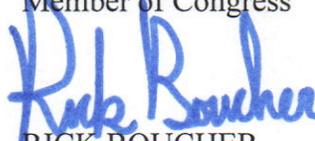
ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT  
Member of Congress



FRANK R. WOLF  
Member of Congress



ERIC I. CANTOR  
Member of Congress



RICK BOUCHER  
Member of Congress



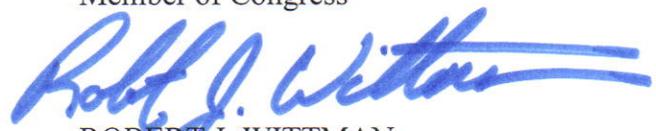
JAMES P. MORAN  
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Member of Congress



ROBERT J. WITTMAN  
Member of Congress



GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
Member of Congress



GLENN C. NYE  
Member of Congress



TOM PERRIELLO  
Member of Congress

Cc: Mr. Joseph C. Szabo, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration, U.S.  
Department of Transportation