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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 24, 2023

The Honorable Amit Bose
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose,

I write today in support of the application from the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority (SRPRA) to the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) Program. I urge you to give their application full and fair consideration.

Rail connections between Philadelphia and Reading have been vital to our Nation's history, with the infamous Reading Railroad helping transport the coal that fueled early American industry. For decades, however, there has been no passenger rail service between the two cities. To address this, political, business, and community leaders from Berks, Chester, and Montgomery Counties formed SRPRA to advocate for reestablishing passenger rail service between Reading and Philadelphia.

SRPRA leadership has told me that this service has tremendous economic and environmental potential for the region. SRPRA has informed me that, according to its studies, over thirty years the route would generate \$1.4 billion in added income for residents, \$1 billion in new property development and increased property values, and take thousands of cars off local roads and highways. Due to Philadelphia's position along Amtrak's Northeast Corridor and other passenger rail routes like the *Carolinian* and the *Vermont*, I also understand that this route would connect Reading and other local municipalities to cities across the East Coast.

I have previously supported this project with \$750,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending to study potential capacity and environmental impacts of added passenger rail service. I understand that acceptance to the Corridor ID program is the next step in working towards full build out of this rail line and restoring this service to residents of Southeastern Pennsylvania. I was proud to support the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which created the Corridor ID program, and I am hopeful that this program will help expand passenger rail options in Pennsylvania.

Thank you in advance for consideration of my views. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with applicable laws, rules and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff at (202)224-6851.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator