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*Bringing Together
State Leaders from
Across the Region
to Advocate
for Passenger Rail
Improvements*

The Midwest Interstate
Passenger Rail Commission is
an eight-state interstate
compact commission that
promotes, coordinates and
supports regional
improvements to passenger
rail service. Our member
states include
Illinois, Indiana, Kansas,
Michigan, Minnesota,
Missouri, North Dakota and
Wisconsin.



May 19, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves, Chair
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Ranking Member
U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

Transmitted via Email: [Justin Harclerode](#) (T&I Republicans) | [Peter True](#) (T&I Democrats)

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

At first glance, the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC) finds a lot to like in the passenger rail-related provisions of the newly released proposal of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee for surface transportation reauthorization, the "Build America 250 Act."

We appreciate your leadership, and the entire committee's work in a bipartisan fashion to draft legislation that will guide federal investments in passenger rail through 2031.

While MIPRC will continue to assess the Build America 250 Act in detail, we are thankful to see authorization for strong annual funding for Amtrak and a set aside for the State-Supported Route Committee.

We are also very glad to see critical discretionary grant programs like CRISI, Railroad Crossing Safety Improvements & Elimination, and Corridor Identification & Development, renewed outright. We're likewise pleased to see the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail, Restoration & Enhancement and Interstate Rail Compacts grants continued.

Many of these provisions (and others in the draft legislation) match ones in [MIPRC's surface transportation reauthorization principles](#).

MIPRC thanks the Committee for its work to date and looks forward to learning more about the Build America 250 Act and to working with the Committee and other Members of Congress to further refine the country's next surface transportation reauthorization bill.

Sincerely,

Laura Kliewer
MIPRC Director