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Congress of the United States
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SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC
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SUBCOMMITTEE:
THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

June 24, 2026

The Honorable David Fink
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Fink:

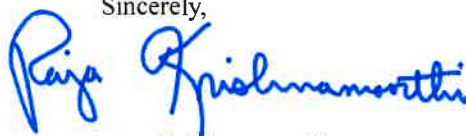
I am pleased to provide my strong support for the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) application on behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program for funding through the National Railroad Partnership Program. This funding will be used to advance CREATE's Rock Island Connection project, the next phase of the larger 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project, which will eliminate the most congested rail chokepoint in the Chicago Terminal and reduce conflict between freight and passenger trains.

The CREATE program is the largest public-private partnership of its kind, involving the nation's rail industry and all levels of government. CREATE strives to align itself with the goals of the National Railroad Partnership Program by improving reliability, travel times, and safety for both passenger and freight trains in one of the busiest rail terminals in the country. This project aims to reduce conflicts in the Belt Junction through which freight operators run 90 trains daily, Metra runs 30 SWS trains daily (serving 976,376 riders in 2024), and Amtrak runs three Cardinal trains (serving 96,679 riders in 2025). Because passenger trains are prioritized, freight trains are curtailed at least twice a day, leading to severe delays and economic impacts.

This project is also critical to improving passenger rail performance across the entire Chicago terminal, and the entire Midwest. Chicago's Union Station is the National Network's busiest station, hosting 17 intercity lines and serving more than three million customers annually. The improvements will strengthen Amtrak's ability to provide reliable service and reduce travel times across the board, while at the same time reducing conflicts with freight services. Chicago is the nation's premier freight hub, handling nearly half of all intermodal containers and one-third of the U.S. carload freight. Investment in this project is not merely an infrastructure upgrade; it is a pivotal step toward enhancing supply chain resilience and driving economic growth.

I would like to reiterate my full support for IDOT's application for funding through the National Railroad Partnership Program. I greatly appreciated your careful consideration of their application.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress