

April 8, 2005

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science  
and Transportation  
United States Senate  
508 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6125

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science  
and Transportation  
United States Senate  
560 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6125

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Inouye:

The Governors of the Coalition of Northeastern Governors (CONEG) strongly endorse and urge timely approval of Joseph H. Boardman for Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) as his nomination comes before the Commerce Committee.

Mr. Boardman has demonstrated a keen insight on the immediate and longer term challenges facing both freight and passenger rail systems in the United States. His years of transportation operations and policy experience in the public and private sectors have given him the ability to balance an openness to new approaches with an understanding of the importance of feasible, workable solutions.

Mr. Boardman is also a recognized national and regional leader on freight and passenger rail issues who brings a strong vision and an articulate voice on the critical role of rail in the nation's integrated transportation system. Equally important, he combines this vision and voice with practical experience. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Rail Transportation of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), he led the development of the two reports which brought national attention to the contribution and needs of a vibrant rail transportation network – the *Intercity Passenger Rail Transportation* report and the *Freight-Rail Bottom Line Report*. His leadership on rail issues for the Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials (NASTO) resulted in the NASTO *Freight Service and Investment Study* report. As lead commissioner on the CONEG Transportation Policy Committee, Mr. Boardman has been instrumental in guiding the Northeast region's efforts on both passenger and freight rail issues.

Mr. Boardman's understanding of the complexity and inter-connectivity of our nation's transportation system, particularly its rail network, provides him with an exceptional foundation for leading the FRA. The CONEG Governors support and urge the expeditious confirmation of Joseph H. Boardman as the next Federal Railroad Administrator.

Sincerely,

/o.s./  
John E. Baldacci  
Chairman  
Governor of Maine

/o.s./  
Donald L. Carcieri  
Vice-Chairman  
Governor of Rhode Island