

**Statement of the Coalition of Northeastern Governors
to the Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Regarding FY 2006 Appropriations for Transportation Security
April 8, 2005**

As the Subcommittee begins the fiscal year 2006 transportation appropriations process, the Coalition of Northeastern Governors (CONEG) is pleased to share with the Subcommittee testimony on the FY 2006 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. The CONEG Governors commend the Subcommittee for its past support of funding for the nation's critical transportation security needs, particularly rail security. Although we recognize the extensive demands being made upon federal resources in the coming year, we urge the Subcommittee to continue the important federal role in securing the nation's transportation systems.

Efforts to strengthen the nation's security, particularly its multi-modal transportation system, are of paramount importance to the CONEG Governors. We believe high priority must be given to the safety and security of the nation's passenger rail systems, and therefore urge that the FY 2006 Appropriations include the funding necessary to enable the Department of Homeland Security to help strengthen the security of the nation's intercity, commuter rail, and rail transit systems. These extensive systems move millions of riders daily, and are critical components of the transportation network. Funding for rail security programs will allow the Department of Homeland Security to be an essential partner with states, local governments and public transportation authorities in ensuring that these vital rail systems remain accessible, reliable – and safe.

The CONEG Governors thank the entire Subcommittee for the opportunity to share these priorities and appreciate your consideration of these requests.

Identical testimony was also provided to the Senate Subcommittee on Homeland Security.