

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission and Colorado Department of Transportation's Application for CRISI grant

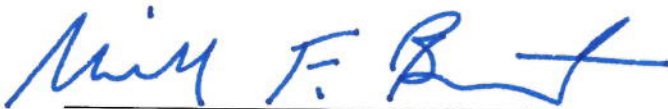
Dear Secretary Chao,

We write to request your full and fair consideration of the application submitted by the Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Commission, in partnership with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), for funding under the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program for the Southwest Chief Thru-Car Service to Colorado Springs Feasibility Study.

The Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission has partnered with the Colorado Department of Transportation and is seeking funding in order to perform a feasibility study analyzing the potential extension of passenger rail service on the Amtrak Southwest Chief to Pueblo, Colorado and Colorado Springs, Colorado. This extension of service, from La Junta, Colorado, has the potential to provide critical transportation connectivity, along with social and economic benefits. This new service could also bolster ridership on Amtrak's Southwest Chief line, which provides important service to our rural communities.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Commission's application.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator