



January 23, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am reaching out to you in response to your “[Unleashing American Energy](#)” executive order halting the disbursement of funding provided by Congress through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). While we appreciate the clarification released through the Office of Management and Budget, there remains uncertainty around which programs are affected. Therefore, **Rail Passengers Association urges you to immediately resume disbursement of funds for passenger rail projects selected through the competitive grantmaking process—or clarify that disbursements have *already* been resumed—as they have been thoroughly vetted by career Department of Transportation (USDOT) staff and enjoy broad support from Members of Congress from both parties.**

In tracking the implementation of the IIJA, *Rail Passengers* has identified more than \$28.6 billion in discretionary passenger rail grants issued by the USDOT across 158 passenger rail projects. These grants are located in almost every state in the nation, from Florida to Alaska. They will benefit millions of Americans, in big cities and small towns, urban neighborhoods and rural communities, Red States and Blue.

The vast majority of the rail projects in question required state and local governments to provide local funding matches to secure these grants. Delaying disbursements will not only endanger tens of thousands of construction jobs, it will introduce costly delays, which will likely be borne by local governments.

Finally, in your executive order, you direct all agencies to immediately pause the disbursement of funds appropriated through the IIJA, to review “processes, policies, and programs for issuing grants, loans, contracts, or any other financial disbursements of such appropriated funds for consistency with the law and the policy outlined in section 2 of this order.” **A plain reading of your executive order reveals that the rail projects funded through the IIJA’s discretionary grant programs fall outside the scope of the considerations outlined in Sec. 2.**

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Mathews  
President & CEO  
Rail Passengers Association

1967



1990



2011



2017



RAIL PASSENGERS  
ASSOCIATION