

NEWS FROM
CONGRESSMAN PHIL HARE (IL-17)

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Hare Strongly Supports Amtrak Reauthorization Bill
Continues Efforts to Bring Rail Service Back to the Quad Cities

WASHINGTON, DC—Last evening, **Congressman Phil Hare (D-IL)** voted for an Amtrak Reauthorization Bill which would create a new State Capital Grant program for intercity passenger rail projects.

The bill provides \$1.9 billion for grants to states to pay for the capital costs of facilities and equipment necessary to provide new or improved passenger rail between cities. It also includes an 80 percent federal match for these grants.

“Establishing an Amtrak line between the Quad Cities and Chicago is one of my top priorities as a Member of Congress,” Hare said. “I believe the emergence of a State Capital Grant program in this bill along with a funding formula that eases the burden on Illinois brings us significantly closer to achieving that goal.”

“Because of continued community organizing and support from key federal and state legislators, the Quad Cities is well positioned to receive funding for passenger rail service as lawmakers focus on providing residents with affordable, efficient, and reliable transportation options,” said Paul Rumler, Executive Director of the Quad Cities Passenger Rail Coalition. “Congressman Phil Hare has provided important leadership and support to advance this regional priority. The Amtrak provisions passed by the U.S. House of Representatives authorize unprecedented federal support for new intercity passenger rail routes, which will help make the Chicago to Quad Cities route a reality.”

Estimates show that a Quad Cities to Chicago line would cost \$23 million. Under the State Capital Grant program, the federal government would cover \$18.4 million of that tab. “I believe passenger rail is a wise investment for everyone involved,” Hare said. “It will increase economic development opportunities in the Quad Cities and help facilitate the progress of a Western Illinois University satellite campus in Moline.”

The bill will soon be headed for the President’s desk.

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