



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN

EDUCATION FUND

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November 9, 2010

Governor Jim Doyle
P.O. Box 7863
Madison, WI 53707

Governor-Elect Scott Walker
The Risser Justice Center
17 W. Main St. Suite 310
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Open letter about intercity passenger rail

Dear Governor Doyle and Governor-Elect Walker:

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund strongly supports continuing the development of intercity passenger rail on the Milwaukee-Madison segment as well as implementing the Wisconsin segments of the Midwest Passenger Rail Initiative, connecting Minneapolis-St. Paul through Wisconsin to Chicago and the rest of the country. We are concerned about the impacts of stalling this project, and we urge you to seek resolution of disputes over this issue as soon as possible.

Intercity passenger rail will benefit Wisconsin's economy and strengthen our communities by creating jobs, providing access to jobs, and providing a safe, secure, cleaner transportation option for our citizens. Job creation and retention are key to Wisconsin's future. Intercity rail will create 5,500 construction jobs and 8,500 permanent jobs for operation and ancillary services. The state needs to act now so that intercity rail can enhance Wisconsin's connections to the economy of the region, spurring development and economic growth, attracting business and investors, and building our competitiveness in the global economy.

Passenger rail will make Wisconsin healthier and cleaner. Rail supports transit choices that reduce congestion and air emissions, lowering health care costs for asthma and other diseases and keeping communities in compliance with air quality standards to avoid costly pollution sanctions on manufacturing sources. Intercity passenger rail is family-friendly and provides convenience and mobility for a wide range of users (students, tourists, the elderly and disabled) to reach medical services, cultural, educational and research facilities, sporting events, shopping and places of employment. Intercity passenger rail travel can cut death and injury rates from automobile crashes and avoid time lost from work due to respiratory illnesses.

The economic and public health consequences of this project being put on hold are severe. We ask that you right the course, put Wisconsin back on track, and move forward with the rail project.

Best wishes and thank you for your public service to Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Andrea Kaminski'.

Andrea Kaminski
Executive Director