

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 15, 2011

CONTACT

James Allen
202-225-1218
James.Allen@mail.house.gov

U.S. Representative John Carney today praised the Department of Transportation's decision yesterday to designate the Northeast Corridor as the final high-speed rail corridor eligible to apply for the \$2.4 billion in rail funding that was rejected by the State of Florida on March 4th.

Secretary Ray LaHood announced the decision in a response to a letter that Rep. Carney sent immediately after Florida's decision was announced, requesting that the funding be made available to the Northeast Corridor. Rep. Carney's letter was co-signed by 37 other members of Congress.

"I applaud Secretary LaHood for his decision to allow the Northeast Corridor to apply for this high-speed rail funding," said Rep. Carney. "The Northeast Corridor has proven to be an important region for high-speed rail and we will make a compelling case for why we deserve this funding."

In a letter to Rep. Carney, Secretary Ray LaHood wrote that "this designation will ensure that States in the Northeast Corridor, which spans the mega-region between Boston and Washington, D.C., will be eligible to apply for funding from existing Federal high-speed and intercity passenger rail programs."

The funding was allocated for high-speed rail in the 2009 stimulus and the Obama Administration has made clear that they will send the rejected Florida funding to a different high-speed rail project.

Every state in the Northeast Corridor was represented on the letter (Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Virginia). Co-signers included the co-chairs of the Northeast Rail Caucus, John Larson (D-CT) and John Olver (D-MA).

The text of Rep. Carney's March 4th letter to Secretary LaHood is below. Secretary LaHood's letter to Rep. Carney informing him of the decision is attached.

###

