

# special employee advisory

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## Amtrak Reauthorization Bill Passes House by Large Margin

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Yesterday afternoon, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (H.R. 6003). Despite threats of a presidential veto, the bill passed by a vast margin of 311-104.

The bill authorizes \$14.4 billion in federal funding for Amtrak over the next five years. Passed last October, the Senate version of the bill (S. 294) authorized \$11.4 billion. The House and Senate will now meet in a conference committee to reconcile differences between the two bills.

“We’re pleased that the House and Senate have now passed major bills authorizing funding for Amtrak,” said President and CEO Alex Kummant. “Both indicate strong support for our company and our mission to provide America with safe and reliable intercity passenger rail service. The big vote in the House shows Congress understands the critical need for a balanced transportation policy, which includes Amtrak intercity rail.”

Both the House and Senate reauthorization bills contain provisions to provide resources for state of good repair and other important rail development opportunities. And for the first time, they include funds to match state investments in corridor development and equipment procurement.

The last Amtrak reauthorization bill was enacted in December 1997.

**Please distribute at all safety meetings and post on all employee bulletin boards.**



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