

Date: _____

Senator Kevin Priola, Chair
Transportation Legislation Review Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E Colfax
Denver, CO 80203-1716

Railroad Investigative Report Confidentiality Bill

Dear Chair Priola,

I am writing to express my support for the Railroad Investigative Report Confidentiality Bill, and I encourage you all to vote to pass this bill at the full General Assembly next session.

Colorado has the most restrictive statute in the nation governing light rail accident investigation confidentiality that requires that all light rail accident investigations be fully confidential. This jeopardizes public safety as it means the Federal Transit Administration, light rail industry employees, the press, and members of the public cannot access the results of light rail accident investigations from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

The Railroad Investigative Report Confidentiality Bill makes all accident investigation reports accessible to all members of the public, but still does allow for confidentiality in a narrow set of circumstances where it may be in the public interest to do so. In so doing, The Bill brings Colorado in line with nationwide standards on light rail accident investigation transparency, allowing the "Rail Transit Authority" (e.g. the Regional Transportation District) and the PUC to promptly publish key facts about an incident, and requires publishing of the final report, reducing confusion and misinformation through transparent and thorough investigation practices. This is essential so that the full range of safety lessons can be learned and passed on, preventing future incidents.

I fully support the Railroad Investigative Report Confidentiality Bill as currently drafted, and I again urge you all to vote to pass this piece of legislation at the full General Assembly next session.

Yours sincerely,

Signature: _____

Name: _____