February [XX], 2021

Dear Senator [*X*],

As the [*YOUR TITLE*] of [*NAME OF TRANSIT AGENCY/BUSINESS/ETC*], Iwrite to express my strong support for H.R. 1319, the “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021”. This bill provides $30.5 billion in critical COVID-19 emergency funding for public transit agencies. The pandemic has significantly increased operating costs and slashed principal sources of transit operations funding, including agency farebox and other revenues.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to drive home the essential role that public transit plays every day. In our system, we have [*SHARE INFORMATION IF YOU HAVE USED YOUR FLEET TO TRANSPORT RIDERS TO VACCINATION CENTERS, MOVING ESSENTIAL WORKERS, OR OTHER SPECIFIC DATA*].

If Congress and the Administration do not provide significant additional COVID-19 emergency transit funding, many public transit agencies will be forced to cut service and lay off or furlough employees. According to a January 2021 APTA survey of public transit agencies, four in 10 agencies will have to consider additional service cuts to close their budget gaps. Similarly, 22 percent of agencies will be forced to consider implementing additional layoffs.

These funds are also critical to maintain the manufacturing and supply chain for public transportation agencies and limit the enormous economic damage to these businesses caused by the pandemic. According to a January 2021 APTA survey of public transit industry businesses, 76 percent of businesses have seen a reduction in their transit industry business because of COVID-19, and nearly four in 10 businesses (38 percent) will be forced to consider additional layoffs. Moreover, one of every five businesses (22 percent) are concerned that they may go out of business due to the pandemic.

I hope that you will support the $30.5 billion COVID-19 emergency funding for public transportation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,