

**June 29, 2006**

**Press Release** | Contact: Danielle Langone (202) 225-6416

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WASHINGTON, DC—The Rail Leadership Award was presented to Representative Peter DeFazio of Oregon on June 28, 2006 at a reception given by the American Passenger Rail Coalition (APRC), a national association of railroad suppliers. The award is given to outstanding leaders in the U.S. Congress whose efforts have improved the quality of nationwide Amtrak service. The reception in honor of Representative DeFazio was held in Union Station and attended by a broad range of organizations including representatives of the U.S. railroad supply industry, rail passengers, Amtrak management, officials of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and individuals from other organizations that support U.S. passenger rail.

“The American Passenger Rail Coalition is proud to present Representative Peter DeFazio with this year’s Rail Leadership Award in recognition of his long-standing commitment to improving the quality of nationwide Amtrak service,” stated Mr. Guy Cierzan of the Carlson Marketing Group in Minnesota and Chairman of the APRC Board of Directors. “Representative DeFazio is a strong leader working to improve Amtrak’s future and a leader on the tremendous improvements that have taken place on the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor, which is consistently rated one of Amtrak’s best by rail passengers.”

“I have long supported increased funding and investment in passenger rail,” Representative DeFazio said. “In past federal highway and transit funding bills, I’ve been able to secure almost \$12 million to renovate the Albany Train Station, and \$3 million for renovation of the Eugene Train Station. I was instrumental in securing a special high speed rail corridor designation for the Northwest in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, enacted in 1991. I’ve also consistently supported increased funding for Amtrak. Amtrak will never live up to its full potential if it’s consistently underfunded. Instead of targeting Amtrak for cuts, we should support and promote increased use of Amtrak.”

Congressman Peter DeFazio is in his 10th term in Congress and is the dean of the Oregon delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives. Congressman DeFazio has served on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee since he was elected to Congress in 1986 and is the third most senior Democrat on the Committee.

He serves on the Railroads Subcommittee, the Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines and the Aviation Subcommittee.

Congressman DeFazio understands that investments in transportation infrastructure are essential to U.S. economic productivity and competitiveness and that these investments create and sustain thousands of good American jobs. Investments to improve the Pacific Northwest

Rail Corridor, which provides passenger rail service from Eugene-Portland-Seattle-Vancouver, B.C., have resulted in a dramatic growth in ridership since the early 1990's when new Talgo trains were put into service. Ridership on the corridor exceeded 620,000 in FY 2005. Congressman DeFazio played a key role in securing federal funds to restore the Albany and Eugene train stations into new intermodal facilities.

Each year, Representative Peter DeFazio works with leadership on the Appropriations Committee to promote the highest possible annual funding for Amtrak.

Representative DeFazio also supports investments to bring about high speed rail in key corridors and cosponsored the High Speed Rail Investment Act. He supported the RIDE-21 legislation, approved by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, to provide tax-credit and tax-exempt bonding authority for investments in rail infrastructure. Congressman DeFazio was an original cosponsor of the Rebuild America Act of 2003 that authorized the creation of Amtrak bonds to finance multi-year capital investments.

"APRC is proud to present the Rail Leadership Award to Congressman DeFazio in appreciation of all he has and continues to do to support Amtrak," concluded Mr. Cierzan.

Board Member companies of the American Passenger Rail Coalition are: Carlson Marketing Group; Arnold Worldwide; General Electric; IBM and LTK Engineering Services.