

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf:

We write to urge your support of the Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation's (Metra) Fiscal Year 2020 Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) application for cyber vulnerability risk mitigation and operations center enhancements. Funding these projects will fulfill FEMA's goal of enhancing the cybersecurity and emerging threat capabilities of urban transit agencies like Metra.

Metra operates nearly 700 weekday trains, providing over 280,000 weekday passenger trips on average, serving 11 routes across six counties. Securing this system against terrorism and other threats is a formidable task, which is why Metra is seeking \$2,325,279 in funding for risk mitigation and system enhancements.

If awarded, the TSGP grant would assist Metra in remediating cyber vulnerabilities posing the greatest risk, accelerating software updates and patches, and establishing a new security operations center. Specifically, TSGP funding would:

- Mitigate vulnerabilities and protect high-risk, high-consequence computer systems and infrastructure previously identified through system-wide risk assessments;
- Improve Metra's cybersecurity resilience;
- Streamline detection and investigation processes to respond quickly and decisively; and
- Expand Metra's culture of preparedness and enable information sharing and collaboration to protect against emerging threats to national security.

Previous TSGP funding has played a key role in protecting the Illinoisans who depend on Metra. We are confident that Metra has the expertise and commitment to build on this success by implementing the critical next steps described above. Thus, we urge DHS to give Metra's application full consideration under applicable guidelines.

Sincerely,

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress

Sean Casten
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress