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| **U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein Expresses Concerns Regarding APTA Position On Positive Train Control**  Earlier this week, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) sent correspondence to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) outlining her concerns about the organization’s position regarding Positive Train Control (PTC). Last week, Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Chairman Michael Antonovich and Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Director Antonio Villaraigosa separately sent letters to APTA expressing their concerns about APTA’s position with respect to the implementation of PTC. Last month, our agency submitted a letter, co-signed by the Chief Executive Officers of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink), encouraging APTA to refrain from supporting any effort to weaken provisions regarding PTC that were outlined in the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA).  APTA held its annual Legislative Conference in Washington, DC last month. At this Legislative Conference, members of the Commuter Rail CEO’s subcommittee considered and approved a proposal to permit the use of alternative technologies to achieve the safety goals sought by the RSIA through the implementation of a PTC system (with a stated deadline of 2015). We are concerned that APTA’s position may serve to diminish the strong safety provisions included in the RSIA that was signed into law by President George W. Bush shortly after the tragic Chatsworth train collision on September 12, 2008. PTC is a GPS-based safety technology capable of preventing train-to-train collisions, over-speed derailments and also capable of bringing trains to a safe stop in the event of a natural disaster. PTC holds the promise of dramatically improving rail safety and for this reason has, for many years, been listed on the National Transportation Safety Board’s (NTSB) “Most Wanted” list.  For your review, please find [here](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/130410_DF_to_APTA_President_Michael_Melaniphy_re_PTC_040813.pdf) Senator Feinstein’s letter to APTA regarding PTC technology. We are currently engaged in a dialogue with APTA, federal legislators and the U.S. Department of Transportation to advance our Board-approved policy of aggressively supporting Metrolink’s effort to fully implement a PTC system by 2015. We look forward to keeping the Board apprised of our efforts on this important rail safety issue.  <http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/130410_DF_to_APTA_President_Michael_Melaniphy_re_PTC_040813.pdf> |
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