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| **Congressman Waxman Urges APTA To Back Positive Train Control Safety Standards**  Today, Congressman Henry Waxman (D-33) sent a letter to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) outlining his position that the organization should maintain its support for the rail safety standards embedded in the Rail Safety Improvement Act (RSIA) of 2008. Specifically, Congressman Waxman noted that he has “strong concerns about any policy that would undermine or weaken the interoperability and safety standards established by RSIA.”  Earlier this year, APTA held its annual Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. 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 Congressman Waxman’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. |
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