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## Anti-rail ads target suburban Milwaukee lawmakers

By [Larry Sandler](#) of the Journal Sentinel

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The conservative Club for Growth launched radio advertising in the Racine area Tuesday, attacking passenger rail transportation plans and two Racine legislators who support those plans.

Similar ads will start Thursday on Milwaukee radio stations, targeting two lawmakers in the Milwaukee County suburbs.

In each case, the ads lambaste legislators for backing plans for a [high-speed train](#) linking Milwaukee and Madison and for the [KRM Commuter Link](#), a commuter train connecting Milwaukee to Racine, Kenosha and the southern suburbs.

All four of the lawmakers targeted -- Sens. John Lehman of Racine, Jeff Plale of South Milwaukee and Jim Sullivan of Wauwatosa and Rep. Cory Mason of Racine -- are Democrats in swing districts. As Joint Finance Committee members, Mason and Lehman voted to accept \$810 million in federal stimulus money to build the high-speed train route, while all four lawmakers have supported [legislation](#) to expand the [Southeastern Regional Transit Authority](#), which is in charge of the KRM.

The ads also promote a Racine "tea party" rally featuring a leading national critic of rail transit, Randal O'Toole of the Libertarian-leaning Cato Institute. That event will be at 7 p.m. March 23 at the South Hills Country Club near Racine.

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