

I am writing to express my support of Amtrak's national system of passenger trains. I believe that we need a network of intercity passenger trains to offer a transportation alternative to highways and airways. It is ridiculous that at a time when we desperately need more travel options, Amtrak is about to collapse. We need to expand and improve Amtrak; not liquidate it.

The federal government should establish policy supportive of enhancing the nation's railroad system by developing a program for investing in railroad infrastructure and by allowing Amtrak to acquire and operate new train equipment for an expanded service.

Most importantly, a dedicated funding source must be established to ensure the continued operation of Amtrak's long distance passenger trains. These intercity routes provide an invaluable service and must be preserved.

Thank you for your time and consideration.