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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

JOHN KEAST, STAFF DIRECTOR
DAVID STRICKLAND, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

June 25, 2020

Mr. William J. Flynn
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Railroad Passenger Corporation
1 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Flynn:

Thank you for your seamless assumption of duties as Amtrak's new President and Chief Executive Officer in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. The pandemic has had serious impacts on Amtrak's ridership and revenues, and we appreciate the work the company and its employees have done to continue providing services throughout this unprecedented time.

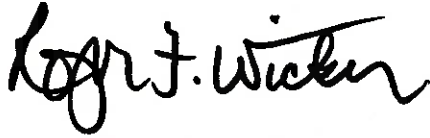
As members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, we are writing regarding Amtrak's recent announcement to reduce frequencies on long-distance routes through fiscal year 2021 in light of COVID-19 impacts. Under this plan, Amtrak would have 32 percent fewer frequencies on the Northeast Corridor, 24 percent fewer frequencies on state-supported routes, and would reduce most long-distance trains from once daily service to three days per week, starting October 1, 2020.

Although we support Amtrak's efforts to use resources efficiently and responsibly, particularly in response to COVID-19, we would like to ensure that reductions in frequencies for long-distance routes do not unnecessarily extend beyond the COVID-19 crisis. We therefore request your responses to the questions below.

- What is Amtrak's plan for reinstating frequencies on affected long-distance routes? Will additional frequencies be added back incrementally or all at once? Will all long-distance routes see frequencies added back at the same time?
- What specific data or benchmarks will Amtrak use in deciding when to reinstate long-distance frequencies, and will this information be publicly available?
- What data is Amtrak using to justify reductions in service for all of fiscal year 2021, and could frequencies on long-distance routes be reinstated sooner?

We look forward to working with you to support America's intercity passenger rail network. Your continued partnership in promoting a safe and reliable passenger rail system is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
Chairman



Jerry Moran
U.S. Senator



Cory Gardner
U.S. Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senator



Ron Johnson
U.S. Senator