

Resolution of ProRail Nebraska, Inc.

WHEREAS Amtrak has informed the United States Congress that effective October 1, 2020, it will reduce passenger train service on its network from daily trains to trains only three days per week, including all but one route for long distance trains.

AND WHEREAS Amtrak has attempted this strategy in the past, resulting in loss of ridership and failure to realize projected cost savings until daily service was restored.

AND WHEREAS the United States Congress has recently appropriated funds which would support the maintenance of a national rail passenger network with daily service by long-distance passenger trains and has repeatedly communicated to Amtrak the need for a national rail passenger network with daily service.

NOW THEREFORE it is unanimously resolved by the Board of Directors of ProRail Nebraska, Inc. as follows:

1. ProRail opposes the proposal to cut service as outlined by Amtrak as being counterproductive to the mission of Amtrak which is to provide essential passenger rail service.
2. ProRail believes that such proposed service cuts will complicate the understanding of scheduling by the patrons of Amtrak and result in loss of ridership, which will be difficult to recover once daily service is resumed. It will also cause lengthy layovers between trains resulting in additional costs to patrons.
3. Due to the recent pandemic, air service has been substantially cut back throughout the United States and citizens may be more likely to travel on the trains where social distancing is possible rather than on crowded airplanes.
4. Severe widespread economic dislocation has occurred and will continue as a result of the pandemic which may require increased mobility of those who have lost jobs requiring them to be able to travel in search of new employment.
5. The proposed 20% reduction in Amtrak employees may cause experienced and valuable employees to not return to Amtrak when daily service is resumed.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Nebraska Congressional Delegation, the Amtrak Board of Directors, the Nebraska Governor and State Senators and the Mayors and Chambers of Commerce of Omaha, Lincoln, Hastings, Holdrege and McCook, the Nebraska cities currently served by Amtrak's "California Zephyr."

Adopted by ProRail Nebraska on this 11th day of July, 2020.

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