

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 15, 2021

Amit Bose, Deputy Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Deputy Administrator Bose:

Earlier this year, we joined together to pass the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which makes smart, targeted investments in our nation's traditional infrastructure. An important provision in the bill addresses the issue that rural America remains underserved by long-distance intercity passenger rail options. We believe passenger rail in the greater northwest region can offer local, state, and regional service capabilities that other modes of transportation cannot - especially during periods of inclement weather.

That is why we worked to ensure the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act emphasized restoring long-distance passenger rail routes by making the largest investment in passenger rail since Amtrak's creation more than 50 years ago. We ask that the Federal Railroad Administration work to expedite implementing the passenger rail provisions within the Act, especially routes outside the northeast and mid-Atlantic.

In order to ensure state, county, and local stakeholders have a seat at the table, we also request that the Department of Transportation formally establish a Greater Northwest Working Group to consult with for the development and advancement of Section 22214, the Amtrak Daily Long-Distance Service Study. This provision is critically important to evaluating all options for restoring or enhancing daily intercity rail passenger service, developing recommendations for methods by which Amtrak could work with local communities and organizations, identifying Federal and non-Federal funding sources required to restore or enhance service, and more.

We look forward to working with you to advance long-distance passenger rail to rural America. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



James Risch
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Mitt Romney
United States Senator