

August 7, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Secretary Duffy,

Holdrege was founded on the railroad—and rail still drives our connection to the nation. As a proud stop on Amtrak's California Zephyr, we know firsthand the economic and cultural value long-distance passenger service brings to rural America.

Today, that connection is at risk. Aging Superliner cars and withdrawn Horizon equipment have left Amtrak's long-distance fleet unable to meet demand. Every year, thousands of potential passengers are turned away—not for lack of interest, but for lack of capacity. Without swift action, the nation's ability to link rural and urban communities will erode.

Long-distance trains are lifelines for towns like Holdrege. They deliver affordable mobility, sustain tourism, support small business growth, and keep commerce moving across the Midwest and beyond. But none of that is possible without reliable equipment.

We urge you to:

1. **Direct Amtrak to immediately place orders** for new long-distance coaches and sleepers, beginning with replacements for aging Superliner equipment.
2. **Safeguard full federal funding** to ensure timely deployment and accountability for new rolling stock.

These investments will protect essential services, strengthen the national network, and support American manufacturing jobs. The opportunity is here now—the cost of delay will be measured in lost connections, lost commerce, and lost trust.

On behalf of the Holdrege Area Chamber of Commerce, I ask you to act decisively to keep America's long-distance passenger rail strong—for rural towns, for the economy, and for the future.

Sincerely,



Chief Executive Officer
Holdrege Area Chamber of Commerce