



Dear Secretary Duffy,

First, I want to thank you for your ongoing dedication to improving and modernizing America's passenger rail network. Your leadership on this front truly makes a difference for communities like ours. I'm reaching out because the need for new long-distance passenger rail equipment—especially replacements for Amtrak's aging Superliner coaches and sleepers in the western United States—has become urgent. Here in Medora, and in so many other rural communities, we see firsthand how limited capacity forces thousands of travelers to be turned away each year. The current fleet simply cannot keep up with passenger demand, and with each passing year, more equipment reaches the end of its service life or is sidelined by accidents.

This isn't a new issue—we should have seen replacement orders years ago. The recent discovery of advanced corrosion in Horizon cars, leading to their complete withdrawal from service, is a stark reminder of how vulnerable Amtrak's equipment base has become.

For us, Amtrak's long-distance trains are not just transportation—they're a lifeline. They connect small towns like Medora to metropolitan centers, open up economic opportunities, and make it possible for working-class Americans to travel affordably and conveniently. Losing that connection would hit rural America the hardest.

To preserve and strengthen long-distance rail service, the new fleet must be built to last: proven designs, reliable and durable materials, and an emphasis on simplicity and comfort for everyday travelers. We have an incredible opportunity to leverage American manufacturing and supply chains to make this happen. I also ask you to work closely with Congress to ensure the necessary funding is secured, along with strong oversight and accountability. If we move quickly, we can deliver a safer, more modern on-board experience—on trains built, operated, and maintained right here in the United States. That means good jobs for American workers and a stronger economy in the communities that support this industry.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this matter, and for your continued leadership in keeping our country connected—both literally and figuratively. On behalf of the people of Medora, I truly appreciate your commitment to seeing this through.

Sincerely,

Derwin Zuroff

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