

ROGER F. WICKER
MISSISSIPPI

ARMED SERVICES
BUDGET

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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February 11, 2016

Mr. Anthony M. Coscia
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Amtrak
60 Massachusetts Ave, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Coscia:


We are writing to express our interest in seeing that the next Amtrak President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is someone whose resume includes significant relevant professional experience and a proven commitment to a unified national passenger rail system.

Through our collective leadership on multi-year passenger rail authorizations and annual appropriations, we are committed to the national passenger rail system and are working collaboratively to improve Amtrak's service. Many of our states pay all capital and operating support for state-supported trains and are planning for improved or expanded service in the coming years. Our residents and economies in communities large and small, rural and urban, rely on Amtrak service. This service provides greater accessibility to balance the need to attract and retain the bright young minds of tomorrow's workforce and provide transportation options for the growing senior population entering retirement market. For many of our citizens, Amtrak represents the only option for travel beyond the automobile.

We appreciate current President and CEO Joseph Boardman's commitment to the national network. With the announcement of Boardman's retirement, it is important that the Board of Directors makes certain that his successor possesses a deep understanding of and support for all three of Amtrak's lines of service – state-supported, long-distance, and the Northeast Corridor. The health of the entire system is critical for maintaining and improving a passenger rail network. Should the next CEO of Amtrak fail to possess a working knowledge of and experience with the system, the positive steps that you have taken to stimulate growth in rail ridership will be put at risk, making it more challenging for Congress to support funding for Amtrak.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the next Amtrak President and CEO be someone with a demonstrated commitment to a unified national passenger rail system.

Sincerely,


ROGER F. WICKER
United States Senator


RICHARD J. DURBIN
United States Senator