



# City of Flagstaff

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

August 24, 2020

William Flynn  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Railroad Passenger Corporation  
1 Massachusetts Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Flynn,

As the Mayor of Flagstaff, Arizona, I write to express my grave concern with recent Amtrak service-level decisions that will be detrimental to the national network. Specifically, I fear reduction from seven-day service on the Southwest Chief would make transportation more difficult and weaken our economy. Amtrak has reliably provided service from Los Angeles to Chicago since 1974, which has been beneficial to northern Arizona's residents and economy.

Tens of thousands of riders have boarded or disembarked on an Amtrak train in Flagstaff, Arizona each year. Many of these riders are visitors and contribute to our tourism economy by visiting unique sites like the Grand Canyon and Sedona. According to the Arizona Office of Tourism, visitors to northern Arizona spent \$1.73 billion, supporting over 18,000 jobs in 2016.

The decisions that you make regarding Amtrak service will have implications for rural economies across the nation. I encourage you to ensure that all communities continue to be well-served by their Amtrak stations to ensure that Amtrak remains an attractive option to travelers.

Proposals like reducing the service of the national network will harm the success of routes like the Southwest Chief and should not be pursued. The route has dependably served communities across our nation for 44 years and pursuing a major service change would be unacceptable.

Ensuring that the national network continues to connect communities across the nation on a daily basis is imperative. While it is clear that Amtrak has a number of priorities to balance, services to rural communities and tourist destinations cannot be jeopardized. I urge you to make clear that you support the national network and will not pursue policies that have the potential to limit service to communities served by Amtrak.

Sincerely,



Coral J. Evans, MBA  
Mayor  
City of Flagstaff, AZ  
bh/CE

CC:

Senator Martha McSally  
Senator Kyrsten Sinema  
Congressman Tom O'Halleran  
Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick  
Congressman Raul Grijalva  
Congressman Paul Gosar  
Congressman Andy Biggs  
Congressman David Schweikert  
Congressman Ruben Gallego  
Congresswoman Debbie Lesko  
Congressman Greg Stanton