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May 29, 2019

President Richard Anderson
Amtrak
1 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Anderson,

I am writing in support of Amtrak's national network, which includes long-distance and state-supported routes.

Routes running out of Arizona are the Southwest Chief and Sunset Limited. As you know, the Sunset Limited runs through Tucson, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, and California. Stations in every state of this route have increased ridership between 2016 and 2018. I support the increase in frequency of service of the Sunset Limited. Many Tucsonans ride this route, with the number of passengers using our station increasing 25 percent from 2011 and 2017.

As you stated in your testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in February, the nation's population will continue to grow and "this urban growth is not limited to the northeast; it is actually happening at higher rates in metro areas outside the northeast like the south, mountain west and west." Arizona's annual growth rate through 2026 is expected to be 1.7 percent, which is more than double the .7 average for the United States.

You also stated that "America needs more from its rails than ever before." I couldn't agree more. America is made up of not only of urban areas, but also small, midsize and rural communities.

Looking at the Amtrak routes in Arizona, six out of the seven stations are not in metro areas, but in towns with population under 100,000. Residents in these towns rely on Amtrak for access to jobs, economic opportunities and family. It is important that Amtrak remain a transportation system that serves urban areas like Tucson but also small towns like Benson and Winslow, Arizona. Congress created a *national* network, and funds should be used to operate the entire system.

Nearly 20 million passengers were served by Amtrak's long-distance and state-supported routes in FY 2018. These passengers are no less important than the 12 million served in the Northeast Corridor. I look forward to Amtrak's commitment to all its passengers and its preservation of long-distance and state-supported routes. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Rothschild
Mayor of Tucson

cc: T. Trifiletti, Exec. Director – All Aboard Arizona