

Office of the President



**ALL ABOARD
ARIZONA**
176 Balfour Place
Sierra Vista, AZ
85635
608-333-7726

July 3, 2020

Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sinema,

I am writing on behalf of All Aboard Arizona to request that you oppose Amtrak's reduction in service on its long-distance trains to three days per week scheduled to take effect on October 1, 2020. Attached is a resolution passed by our Board of Directors at our June 20, 2020 meeting. This unwarranted and destructive action will compromise the extensive investment the taxpayers have made in our national passenger rail system over the past 49 years and diminish transportation options for Arizona residents during this time of crisis.

It is important to point out that the ridership on the long-distance trains has held up significantly better during the pandemic than any of Amtrak's other product lines. Further, the long-distance trains serve communities with few public transportation options rendering them especially vital during this time of pandemic. With Amtrak proposing to lay off 20% of their employees during this time of economic suffering, we are concerned that these skilled workers will not be available when service needs to be restored. Amtrak's track record on restoring cut service is not a positive one.

We ask for your immediate support in preventing this loss of service to Arizona communities. We also look forward to working with you on improving passenger rail service in Arizona.

Sincerely,

Todd J. Liebman
President, All Aboard Arizona