

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
And Urban Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
And Urban Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

As you consider fiscal year 2018 appropriations for the Department of Transportation, we write in support of long distance Amtrak routes.


Colorado is home to two long distance Amtrak lines: the Southwest Chief, which runs from Chicago to Los Angeles, and the California Zephyr from Chicago to San Francisco. Elimination of funding for these lines would likely result in their service being eliminated, causing harm to the Colorado communities with stops along their routes. Moreover, we are concerned the impact that funding elimination for long distance routes would have on the recently opened Winter Park Express ski train from Denver to Winter Park.

We believe long distance Amtrak lines have proven to be a vital program for rural communities in Colorado and throughout the nation and therefore warrant continued support from Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator