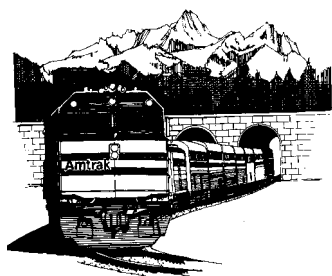


July 7, 2003

If you agree ...



Amtrak



Fiscal Discipline



Broke Taxpayers

... then you should sign this letter!!

Dear Colleague:

Six of the seven Amtrak board members terms expire this year. By filling four vacant positions on Amtrak's Board of Directors with individuals committed to market-based reforms, the president could create a controlling majority committed to place Amtrak on a path to financial self-sufficiency.

If you agree, I hope you'll consider joining me in sending a letter to the President's Domestic Policy Council, urging such an action. **PLEASE NOTE:** This letter does **NOT** advocate on behalf of any specific individuals.

The deadline for signatures is **FRIDAY, JULY 18**. For more information or to sign the letter, contact Rob Vernon in my office at 5-3915.

Yours truly,

Chris Chocola
Member of Congress

July 18, 2003

The Honorable Margaret Spellings
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
The White House
Washington, DC 20502

The Honorable Jay Lefkowitz
Deputy Assistant to the President & Deputy
Director, Domestic Policy Council
The White House
Washington, DC 20502

The Honorable Liz Dougherty
Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, OPD
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Ms. Spellings, Mr. Lefkowitz and Ms. Dougherty:

This year, the terms of appointment for six of the seven Amtrak board members will expire, giving President Bush a one-year window of opportunity to place competent people in charge of this troubled corporation and to reform its fiscal operations.

As you know, Congress approved \$1 billion in emergency funding for Amtrak operations in February. One month later, Amtrak President and CEO, David Gunn, claimed he would need \$10 billion in federal subsidies over the next five years to continue Amtrak's operations. And just recently, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passed a 3-year, \$2 billion per year authorization for Amtrak.

These funding levels far surpass the modest, responsible requests for Amtrak made by the Administration, and seem unwise considering Amtrak's most recent annual reports, which reveal record losses of over a billion dollars in both 2001 and 2002.

While some members of Congress would like to meet Mr. Gunn's request, we hope the President will take steps necessary to end this squandering of taxpayer dollars. By filling four vacant positions on Amtrak's Board of Directors with individuals committed to market-based reforms, the President could create a controlling majority committed to place Amtrak on a path to financial self-sufficiency.

Additionally, current law holds that one federal employee may sit on Amtrak's board, and by tradition that seat has been held by the Secretary of Transportation. We would like to suggest that a better choice for the solitary federal slot would be the Treasury secretary, or the director of the Office of Management and Budget, who could speak more convincingly on behalf of the taxpayers.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

CC: Josh Bolton, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget
Karl Rove, Senior Advisor to the President
Allan Rutter, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration