

DRAFT MESSAGE

The Honorable _____

Dear Senator or Rep:

Amtrak is making policy changes concerning private railroad cars and charter trains which do not make good business sense and which I strongly oppose. Please contact Amtrak's CEO Richard Anderson and its board members and urge them to reconsider.

On March 28th Amtrak announced that commencing immediately it would no longer operate charter services or special trains, with only "a few narrow exceptions." I believe this disregards Section 216 of the 2008 PRIIA law: "Amtrak is encouraged to increase the operation of special trains funded by, or in partnership with, private sector operators through competitive contracting to minimize the need for Federal subsidies."

Although not an announced policy, Amtrak is rejecting private car moves from intermediate points on their routes where individual cars have routinely been switched on and off regularly scheduled trains. These denials, without notice, are creating profound difficulties for operators. Many car owners are not wealthy and rely on selling space to paying customers. They have had to cancel trips and refund payments.

Not only does Amtrak make approximately \$10 million dollars from private cars and special trains, the majority of that goes straight to their bottom line since there is little expense in adding a car to an already scheduled train. In addition, this is creating ill will among some influential owners who have been helpful to Amtrak in its periodic struggles for funding.

Thank you for contacting Amtrak and urging management to rethink these misguided policies.