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United States Senate

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

July 27, 2020

Dear Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Cantwell:

I write today to respectfully request that William Flynn, the Chief Executive Officer of Amtrak, come before the Committee for an oversight hearing as soon as the Committee's schedule allows.

The devastating impacts of COVID-19 have impacted every corner of American life, and commuting is no different. Amtrak is facing low ridership and decreased revenue. Rural service and long-distance routes are in jeopardy, as are thousands of jobs. Long-distance service is critical to connecting folks all over the country, especially in places like Shelby, Montana. That is why I was pleased that the CARES Act provided Amtrak with just over \$1 billion to pay employees, offset ticket revenue losses, and to keep equipment sanitized and passengers safe.

However, despite this investment, Amtrak's financial future remains uncertain. It is vital that Congress continue to support Amtrak's service to rural America, so that we can provide crucial connections to jobs, tourism, and family. I believe that it is important for members of the Committee to have the opportunity to debate the tools at our disposal to do so. I ask that you hold an oversight hearing of Amtrak, and support a robust debate on the future of this service.

As leaders on the Committee, you are charged with oversight over Amtrak's activities, and spearheading the discussion on the long-term solvency of the agency. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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