

George D. Warrington  
President and Chief Executive Officer



April 5, 2002

The Honorable Marc Morial  
President, U.S. Conference of Mayors  
1620 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mayor Morial:

On behalf of the Amtrak Board and in the spirit of 49 U.S.C. §24706 which promotes early notice, I am writing to you with an update on Amtrak's situation and the efforts now underway to ensure continued service on Amtrak's entire system, including the service that currently runs through your community.

As you may know, Amtrak is pursuing a federal appropriation of \$1.2 billion in FY 2003 to maintain today's system in the coming year. While we are very early in the legislative process, we are encouraged by the support we have received from Members of Congress and from state and local officials throughout the country. In the last few weeks, several pieces of legislation to reauthorize Amtrak have been introduced, including a comprehensive reauthorization and rail development bill sponsored by Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ernest Hollings (D-SC). This legislation has nearly 30 Senate cosponsors. In addition, the Senate Budget Committee included Amtrak's request in its FY 2003 Budget Resolution which will be considered before the full Senate in April. These are all important steps in the process and reflect support for Amtrak and a national rail passenger system.

That said, the uncertainties associated with the legislative process mean that Amtrak must prepare for the possibility that it will not receive an appropriation sufficient to keep all current services in place. As a corporation, we cannot rely on an uncertain outcome. While Amtrak could not be more committed to a national passenger rail system, if funding falls below Amtrak's budget, it is likely that certain trains will be discontinued. Of course some trains require more direct subsidy than others. Eighteen of these already have been identified as being at high risk and, depending on the level of appropriation, other routes, services or programs are also at risk. I would like to make it very clear that no final decisions about Amtrak services in FY 2003 have been made at this time. Amtrak intends to make decisions after the federal appropriations process has been concluded this fall.

I want to assure you that we are working very hard to secure the funding that is needed to maintain our current services. I also want you to know that we will provide as much notice as possible of route cancellations, should these be required at the conclusion of that process. As you may know, in circumstances like this where train service rests on the availability of federal appropriations, the law does



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not require Amtrak to provide the customary 180-day cancellation notice, and indeed it would not be feasible to provide notice as to specific routes until Congress takes action.

However, in the spirit of the law, we felt it was important on February 1 and again today to explain Amtrak's financial circumstances and the choices we may face, and to assure you that Amtrak will work closely with you in the important months ahead.

If you have any questions about this or Amtrak's services in general, please contact Joe McHugh, Amtrak's Acting Corporate Vice President – Government Affairs at 202-906-3918.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Warrington".

George D. Warrington

*President and Chief Executive Officer*