

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 10, 2015

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Mr. Joseph Boardman  
President and CEO  
Amtrak  
50 Massachusetts Avenue, Northeast  
Washington, District of Columbia 20002

Dear Mr. Boardman:

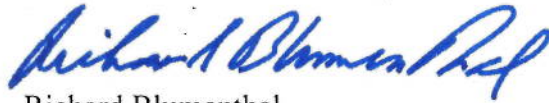
I write to express my concern over Amtrak's consideration of terminating its program with the Shore Line East (SLE) Railroad to cross honor SLE monthly ticket holders on Amtrak Acela train 2151. This program provides an essential commuting option for many residents of New London, Connecticut needing to reach New Haven for work. Without this crucial option, those who rely on this service will lose their only practical mode of public transportation. Please work to ensure that this issue is resolved in a way that continues to provide train service to these loyal consumers, whether you decide to continue the cross honor benefit or develop an alternative service agreement with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT).

Amtrak has cross honored SLE monthly tickets on the Acela 2151 since 2003. An average of twenty-two SLE ticket holders commute daily on this train. The riders using this service are traveling the nearly 50 miles between New London and New Haven to reach their jobs. Train 2151 is a major artery connecting two of Connecticut's metropolitan areas, helping to generate economic activity for both regions. Without a commuting-hour service, those traveling this route will be left with few options. The distance is simply too long for most to cover by car. Having the choice of using this service also removes vehicles from the highway, reducing traffic congestion, pollution, and wear and tear on the roads. I have heard from several constituents voicing these very concerns and it is abundantly clear that an absence of train service for commuters between New London and New Haven will have a significantly detrimental impact on the region at large.

I understand that you are currently negotiating with ConnDOT on reaching a solution. I hope that these discussions swiftly lead to acceptable results for all parties involved – particularly the commuters – so that in the fall of 2015 when the cross honor program is expected to expire, the current riders of 2151 have a reliable service to which they can transition. The popularity of the cross-honor program displays the success of Amtrak's Acela service, which I support and believe should be strengthened and bolstered. I look forward to working with you to ensure that your ridership continues to grow and the loyal SLE customers you have gained have access to the service upon which they have come to trust and rely. Please provide my office

within thirty days of receipt of this letter documentation explaining how you intend to resolve this issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate