



October 1, 2008

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts with you about the importance of supporting our nation's passenger trains and intercity railroad transportation systems. Amtrak is an absolutely vital part of America's transportation system, and we need to strengthen it now, not starve it.

You probably know that Joe has been riding Amtrak to work throughout his career. We know how important Amtrak is, and that's why we support substantial investment – investment in infrastructure and investment in the workforce.

Amtrak is the only reliable form of transportation in many parts of the country, and it is central to a safer, more reliable, and more energy-efficient transportation future that helps address traffic problems and climate change. We cannot afford to wait on critical funding for updated infrastructure and technology to meet increasing passenger demand. That's why we have both supported rail transportation throughout our careers. As you may know, we both cosponsored S. 294, the Passenger Rail Investment and Innovation Act in the U.S. Senate, and we support congressional efforts to get this important legislation to the president's desk this year. And we will continue fighting for Amtrak when we're elected.

We encourage you to look at our positions and records versus those of our opponents. John McCain has consistently fought against federal support for Amtrak. For decades in the Senate and as Chairman of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation committee, McCain opposed capital funding for Amtrak time and time again and wanted to dismantle Amtrak entirely.

What Senator McCain doesn't recognize is that a strong national infrastructure system is in our national interest – for our economy, national security and quality of life. We believe that America's long-term competitiveness and the growth of our economy depend on the stability of our infrastructure. That's why we will create a National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank and fund it with \$60 billion over 10 years to expand and enhance, not replace, existing federal transportation investments. One of the important areas we must invest in is high-speed rail for economic, environmental, and other reasons.

Amtrak's infrastructure is important, and it's just as important to take care of the workers who operate and maintain it. That's why we are proud to stand with the men and women of Amtrak and your unions, and we are committed to making sure that you receive and maintain the respect and benefits you've earned. And we will fight alongside

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you to build an America where we value the labor of every American and reward it with a few basic guarantees. We have to make sure that you and your families – and working families across this country – have quality, affordable health care when you get sick; that you're being treated fairly in the workplace and earning wages that can raise a family; that your children are getting the world-class education they need to compete in the modern economy; and that after a lifetime of hard work, you can retire with dignity and security.

These aren't just the values of working folks or organized labor. They are American values. And the men and women of Amtrak, and working people across this country, deserve a President and a Vice President who don't choke on the word "union" and are willing to fight for the right to organize; who know that it's the Department of Labor, and not the Department of Management. And that's the kind of leadership we will bring.

We see a future where a modernized rail system plays an increasingly important role in our transportation mix, but we can't get there without your help. So we hope you'll vote for us, and talk to your friends and neighbors to get their support too. Together, we can create the change we need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barack Obama".

Barack Obama

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Biden".

Joe Biden