



# **Railroad Workers United**

***Solidarity • Unity • Democracy***

***The Rank & File in Action!***

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## **RWU Resolution in Support of Amtrak Daily Service**

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**James Wallace, UTU #305**  
BNSF, Lincoln, NE

**Andrew Weir, TCRC-LE #240**  
CN, Sarnia, ON

**Whereas**, Amtrak, the U.S. passenger rail carrier is mandated by law to provide a national network of trains to serve all parts of the country; and

**Whereas**, Amtrak management currently has plans to reduce the frequency of all long distance trains to just three times per week (a 57% cut in service); and

**Whereas**, if carried out, this plan would drastically diminish both ridership and revenue even further; and

**Whereas**, three times weekly operations will cost the company dearly because:

- Many travelers will forgo the trip because the train either does not run on the outbound and/or inbound leg of travel on the desired dates.
- Confusion, lengthened trip times, will deter riders from using the system.
- Numerous fixed costs of train operations will remain, while revenue plummets.
- Additional wages must be paid to employees who exercise seniority to new territories, working many months before attaining qualification.
- Same-day connections will in many case be lost, deterring passenger ridership.

**Whereas**, in the 1990s, Amtrak management attempted a similar “cost cutting” scheme on many of the long distance trains with disastrous results; and

**Whereas**, the freight “host” railroads may well balk at daily service restoration when the time comes, making it difficult/expensive to restore service; and

**Whereas**, Amtrak already has a few long distance trains that operate just three days a week, and have done so for decades, despite high demand and endless attempts to restore those lines to daily service; and

**Whereas**, Amtrak itself would face numerous costs associated with daily restoration of service including: re-familiarization/re-qualifying/retraining of crews; and overtime and new hire expenses;

**Therefore, Be it Resolved**, that Railroad Workers United (RWU) supports the continuation of daily service of all long distance trains, including the resumption of daily service for any and all trains that currently operate less than daily; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that RWU urge the rail unions to publicize this fight and encourage their members in both freight and passenger service to get behind the struggle; and

**Be it Further Resolved**, that RWU supports the House of Representatives’ legislation that provides full funding for Amtrak, but only on the condition that the trains continue to run daily with no furloughs; and

**Be it Finally Resolved**, that RWU supports a more robust and fully functioning Amtrak with new routes and frequencies going forward, in order to fill the transportation gap due to a lack of bus and airline service to hundreds of communities, and to enable Amtrak to take advantage of changing travel patterns in a post pandemic world.

**Adopted by the RWU Steering Committee 9/8/2020**