



Parish of Natchitoches

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Mr. Stephen J. Gardner
President
Amtrak
1 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Gardner:

Please accept this letter as both encouragement and endorsement of the proposed expansion of passenger rail service in and through Louisiana resulting from the efforts of Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern.

The establishment of passenger rail service in Natchitoches Parish will have an extremely positive impact on Northwest Louisiana tourism, business, healthcare, and education. The railways current proximity to the historic city of Natchitoches and rural Natchitoches Parish would enhance the historic ties and nostalgia of the area. Furthermore, cooperation with host railroads will not only bring passenger rail but also increase freight connectivity.

I am thankful for the diligent work of the Southern Rail Commission and its service to all stakeholders, including local, regional, state, and national government partners and advocates to establish enhanced rail service in the region. Furthermore, I support these proposed rail enhancements, especially those traveling through Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, and the proposed merger of Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern. I urge the Surface Transportation Board to approve this merger so this great union may be expedited.

Sincerely,

John Richmond
Natchitoches Parish President