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Message:

On time performance of intercity passenger trains is every bit as important as on time performance of air travel.

I travel for business between Philadelphia and Chicago, and for pleasure everywhere else. Very often, my trips require connections, which cannot be made from late trains. Trains more than ten minutes late are LATE; showing up for work on a routine basis ten minutes late would not be tolerated in the business world. Why then should it be accepted in the transportation world? The taxpayers relieved the freight railroads of their passenger train burden with the express intent of holding them accountable for the operation of Amtrak trains on their lines. They should not be relieved of this burden purely for their own convenience.