

**Re: Docket Number EP-726-0**  
**On-time Performance and Preference for Passenger Trains**

**Comments of**  
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I am a frequent passenger aboard Amtrak's *Cascades* corridor and *Empire Builder*, between Portland, Oregon and various destinations in Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Minnesota. My specific concern is about on-time performance at intermediate stations, and not just end points of routes. For example, the *Empire Builder* is not just a Portland/Seattle to Chicago train but rather one serving hundreds of city pairs, many of which have no commercial air or bus service. Furthermore, many of these intermediate stations are subject to extreme winter weather conditions, and may be unstaffed and unheated. Passengers waiting for a train running hours late can literally find themselves exposed to life threatening weather. For these reasons, schedule adherence at intermediate stations is vital to the public interest.

For the above reasons, it is recommended that the preference accorded to passenger trains on Class I railroads be defined by the FRA formal rulemaking process and not by a mere policy statement.

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,  
J. Michael Morrison