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Willa Bandler
555 Winter St
Walpole, MA 02081

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As a frequent Amtrak passenger—most often between Boston and Lamy, New Mexico—I am asking the Surface Transportation Board to withdraw this policy statement. It clearly is necessary for Amtrak to press freight operators to honor their legal obligation to prioritize passenger trains. This policy statement is a transparent attempt to go around the intent of Congress and the best interests of railroad passengers.

I travel on Amtrak for both business and pleasure/family reasons. When trains are late, it is easy to miss connections, and since there are so few to begin with, delays matter. If a connecting train only runs once a day, it's a major catastrophe to miss it. With the proposed policy statement allowing for half-hour delays at endpoints, where transfers are most likely to occur, missed trains are quite likely, unless Amtrak lets that half-hour delay propagate through the whole system by delaying connecting routes. There is just no excuse for freight railroads—which received a great bailout from the taxpayers when Amtrak was created—to pretend they don't know this. Please do not allow this to happen behind closed doors. A train that is more than ten minutes late is late, period.