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Date: Mon. February 8, 2016

To: Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC

Re: Docket Number EP-726-0

My wife and I use Amtrak train service throughout the year for both business and pleasure. My grown children have used Amtrak to get to and from their colleges. Passenger service is and has been very important to us with on time performance being an essential factor.

I live in Glendive, MT and have to drive either 101 miles to the Amtrak Station at Wolf Point, MT or 100 miles to the station at Williston, ND. The roads to these locations are not Interstate Highways and during the course of bad weather, especially during the winter season in this part of the country, one has to decide to leave early so as to make the train's departure time. On time arrival and departure times of passenger trains are very important when you have to drive these distances just to connect with the train.

On time and reliable Amtrak service is also key to making any connections, whether they be personal or public transportation options at all station locations, intermediate and final station. Likewise, final on time end point terminal arrivals makes for better connections to other trains. This entire concept is no different than what the airline industry currently does today. Safety and on time performance are the two most important items that travelers consider whenever taking any type of public transportation.

I would like the STB to consider on time performance parameters be no more than 10 mins. late for an arrival time at the final terminal and no more than 5 mins. late at all intermediate station stops. This is reasonable and can be accomplished as long as Amtrak and the host railroads work together to fulfil this obligation.

Safety, lower costs, and convenience go hand in hand with passenger trains operating on time from start to finish including all intermediate stops along the route.

Thank you for your time with my remarks.