

For A Change of Pace...

*City of*  *Illinois*

September 16, 2014

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Hon. Daniel R. Elliott III, Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423

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Dear Chairman Elliott:

I write in my capacity as the Mayor of Du Quoin, Illinois, a community that is proud to be an Amtrak passenger rail stop. Unfortunately, Amtrak service here has the ignominious distinction of being on the corridor with one of the worst on-time performances in the nation. Amtrak passenger trains using the Chicago-to-Carbondale corridor, also known as the Illini/Saluki corridor, arrived on time only 54% in the last fiscal year.

The demand for passenger rail service is up along the corridor as more and more Illinoisans seek reliable transportation options. I must share with you, though, that Amtrak's on-time performance along the corridor is locally regarded with disdain, a marketing and reliability problem that is clearly not the fault of Amtrak.

The delays are attributable to Canadian National freight trains blocking the movement of passenger traffic along the corridor. While we are indeed very happy to be an Amtrak community, the service provided must be prompt and consistent with public expectations. To this end I join with Illinois Senator Richard J. Durbin in calling for an investigation into the causes of these untenable delays and to remedy them as quickly as possible.

If I can be of assistance in this matter in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me at [rexduncan@duquoin.org](mailto:rexduncan@duquoin.org) or (618) 542-3841. Your consideration in this important matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Rex Duncan  
Mayor

Cc: Hon. Richard J. Durbin, Senator