



**Washington State
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Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0012

SUBJECT: STB Docket No. EP 726

Dear Ms. Brown:

The purpose of this letter is to advise that Washington State supports and STB approach that provides timely and informative data related to poor on-time performance (OTP) of the Illini/Saluki service.

We are concerned a formal rule making procedure could delay the STB investigation into root cause actions affecting OTP. This information is needed by states for positive conversation with host railroads toward meeting current on-time performance targets and to ensure the substantial nationwide federal investments in intercity passenger rail achieve the goals of improved performance and ridership growth.

Sincerely,


Ron Pate
Director, Rail Division

RP:ar

cc: Hal Gard, ODOT
Jennifer Sellers, ODOT