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To: Surface Transportation Board
From: James L Loomis Date: December 31, 2015 Re:
Amtrak On-time Performance

As a published author and a member of the board of directors of a national non-profit organization, it is necessary for me to travel to the U.S. mainland 2-4 times a year. Of course I am forced to fly because I live in Hawaii, but I do my best to minimize the time I spend in the air because of a medical issue. My usual routine, therefore, is to fly to the West Coast and take Amtrak from there to my mainland destinations. Please allow me to give you a specific example of the dilemma I face in order to attend these meetings.

The next meeting of the board of directors is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 10th, in Washington, DC. The preferred travel itinerary for me to attend that meeting would be as follows:

Wed., April 6	12:45 p.m., depart Maui, AA flight 254 9:13 p.m., arrive Los Angeles
Thurs., April 7	6:15 p.m., depart Los Angeles, Amtrak train #4
Fri., April 8	en route on train #4
Sat., April 9	3:15 p.m., arrive Chicago 6:40 p.m., depart Chicago, Amtrak train #30
Sun., April 10	1:50 p.m., arrive Washington 4:00 p.m., board meeting

However, given Amtrak's unpredictable on-time performance, it would be foolhardy for me to assume that I will make the three-and-a-half-hour connection in Chicago or, if I do, that train #30 will arrive into Washington Union Station in time for me to attend my board meeting. Therefore, I am leaving home on Monday April 4th, two days earlier. Here is my actual itinerary:

Mon., April 4	12:45 p.m., depart Maui, AA flight 254 9:13 p.m., arrive Los Angeles
Tues., April 5	6:15 p.m., depart Los Angeles, Amtrak train #4
Wed., April 6	en route on train #4
Thurs., April 7	3:15 p.m., arrive Chicago
Fri., April 8	6:40 p.m., depart Chicago, Amtrak train #30
Sat., April 9	1:50 p.m., arrive Washington
Sun., April 10	4:00 p.m., board meeting

Those of us who have been elected to this board of directors are volunteers and serve at our own personal expense. To attend this one meeting, and in addition to all the normal travel expenses, I will be incurring the cost of two extra hotel nights (April 7th and April 9th), both in cities notorious for high hotel rates, plus meals and additional incidental expenses. And I am personally absorbing those extra expenses solely because of Amtrak's poor on-time performance record.

My thanks for your consideration of these concerns.

(signed) James L. Loomis