

Spring 2010

## SB19-09/10: Amtrak Service in Montana

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1                                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2                                   **Resolution Regarding Amtrak Service in Montana**  
3                                   **February 3, 2010**

4                                   **Senate Bill Number SB19-09/10**

5                                   **Authored by: Patrick Rhea, ASUM Senator and Zach Rogala, ASMSU Senator**

6                                   **Sponsored by: Ashleen Williams, ASUM Senator**

7                                   **And Ray Davis, ASUM Senator**  
8  
9

10       Whereas, there are limited options of mass transportation available to residents of southern  
11       Montana, ASUM ~~believes it is necessary~~ *driven* to support the development of such options;

12  
13       Whereas, this service would connect 25 higher education institutions including Billings,  
14       Bozeman, Butte, Helena, and Missoula on its route from Chicago to Seattle;

15  
16       Whereas, this service would lower the student to vehicle ratio on campuses and decrease The  
17       University of Montana's (UM) need to invest large capital into parking infrastructure;

18  
19       Whereas, this service would expand the educational opportunities offered to Montana University  
20       System (MUS) students by providing reliable transportation between the various MSU and UM  
21       campuses around the state;

22  
23       *Whereas, rail service, on average, is 19% more energy efficient than air travel and 28% more*  
24       *energy efficient than auto travel;*

25  
26       *Whereas, train service makes it easier for students to go "carless" saving them \$5,000 - \$8,000*  
27       *annually;*

28  
29       *Whereas, this service would create 269 permanent jobs plus many jobs making equipments and*  
30       *rail improvements;*

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32       Therefore, let it be resolved that the Associated Students of The University of Montana supports  
33       the reopening of Amtrak's North Coast Hiawatha Route.

34  
35       Let it be further resolved that the ASUM directs the Office of Transportation to continue its  
36       lobbying efforts for the reopening of Amtrak's North Coast Hiawatha Routs

37  
38       Let it be further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to President George Dennison,  
39       Senator Max Baucus, Senator John Tester, and Representative Denny Rehberg.  
40  
41

Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2010

Passed by Senate: \_\_\_\_\_, 2010

42 \_\_\_\_\_  
43 Andrew Dusek,  
44 Relations and Affairs Chair  
45

\_\_\_\_\_

Emily May,  
Chair of the Senate