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SB19-09/10: Amtrak Service in Montana

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Regarding Amtrak Service in Montana
February 3, 2010
Senate Bill Number SB19-09/10
Authored by: Patrick Rhea, ASUM Senator and Zach Rogala, ASMSU Senator
Sponsored by: Ashleen Williams, ASUM Senator
And Ray Davis, ASUM Senator

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas, train service makes it easier for students to go “carless” saving them $5,000 - $8,000 annually;

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

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

Let it be further resolved that the ASUM directs the Office of Transportation to continue its lobbying efforts for the reopening of Amtrak’s North Coast Hiawatha Routes

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

Passed by Committee: __________________________, 2010
Passed by Senate: _____________________________, 2010
| 42 | Andrew Dusek,                  | 43 | Emily May,                  |
|    | Relations and Affairs Chair   |    | Chair of the Senate        |
|    |                               | 44 |                           |
|    |                               | 45 |                           |