



ANGELO SANTABARBARA
Assemblyman 111th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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June 26th, 2023

Stephen J. Gardner, Chief Executive Officer
The National Railroad Passenger Corporation, d/b/a Amtrak
1 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20001

Subject: Urgent Request to Address Disruption of Amtrak Adirondack Service

Dear Mr. Gardner,

I write to bring your attention to a concerning issue affecting the Amtrak Adirondack route north of Albany-Rensselaer in New York State. It is my understanding that the Canadian National Railroad recently imposed a 10 mph speed limit on their tracks in Canada whenever the air temperature exceeds 86 degrees Fahrenheit; and this development has led to Amtrak's cancellation of service north of Rensselaer.

The CN territory has been a subject of previous disputes between Amtrak and CN pertaining to track conditions, responsibility for funding track maintenance, and the minimum required operating speed for the Adirondack service. I would like to see a prompt resolution of this latest CN/Amtrak dispute and the resumption of service to Montreal, but I also believe it is crucial for Amtrak to continue operating the Adirondack service at least as far as Saratoga Springs during this interim period. Specifically, the existing northbound Adirondack train could continue operating to Saratoga Springs and remain there during the day, before returning southbound in the existing Adirondack time slot or perhaps slightly earlier. (Currently, the southbound train leaves Saratoga at 6:02 AM and arrives at NY Penn at 10:15 AM.)

While the CN's requirements far exceed common industry practice, according to the Empire State Passengers Association (ESPA), with the peak summer travel season approaching, it is imperative that we maintain train service to meet the demand here in the Capital Region. Although the ESPA has not received any formal communication regarding this situation from Amtrak, I have noted the train cancellations in the Amtrak reservation system. I urge you to consider continuing the Adirondack service to Saratoga Springs and potentially Plattsburgh until the dispute with Canadian National is resolved.

I sincerely appreciate your ongoing support for the enhancement of Amtrak service in New York and the surrounding regions. The resumption of the Adirondack service to Saratoga Springs would alleviate the significant impact on local tourism, travelers, and businesses, ensuring the continued economic vitality of communities in the Capital Region. I trust that Amtrak will carefully consider this urgent matter and take the necessary steps to address the disruption promptly.



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Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I look forward to a positive resolution that serves the best interests of all stakeholders involved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angelo Santabarbara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Angelo Santabarbara
Member of the New York State Assembly
111th District | Representing areas of Montgomery & Schenectady Counties