



Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen

A Division of the Rail Conference-International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Montana State Legislative Board - Established May 17, 1904

804 10th Avenue North • Glasgow, MT 59230
Phone/Fax: (406) 228-9890 • E-mail: blecag@nemontel.net

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 3.16.05
SJ 21

CRAIG A. GILCHRIST
Chairman

March 14, 2005

The Honorable Scott Mendenhall
Chairman House Transportation Committee
RE: SJ 21

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Due to unforeseen circumstances I will be unable to address the committee on SJ 21 and I request that my written testimony be added to the record. The Montana State Legislative Board, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, International Brotherhood of Teamsters would like to go on record in support of SJ 21.

Amtrak is vital to a well rounded transportation system for Montana's citizens. The service provided by a daily rail passenger train is vital for all communities presently served by Amtrak; figures have shown an increase in rider ship at most every stop in Montana. Amtrak Express for some Montana's small businesses is a life line that they need and use regularly. It is easy to see that the preservation of Amtrak service is so necessary to the over all well being of all the communities involved. The tourist industry is another benefactor of daily rail passenger service now provided by Amtrak, many people are using Amtrak as their transportation choice to a Montana destination.

Lastly Montana's weather can shut down airports and highways quickly and keep them closed for some time. I will say that even under these brutal weather conditions Amtrak may be run late but almost every time it will get though.

In the past, Montana's Legislature has shown its support for Amtrak. The adoption of SJ 21 will show Montana's continued recognition of the vital part daily rail passenger service, provided by Amtrak, plays in Montana's economy and the transportation needs of its citizens.

Please vote yes on SJ 21.

Thank you

Craig A. Gilchrist
Chairman