EXHIBIT 1
DATE 3-13-2009
SB SB283

MISSOULA

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

435 RYMAN MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802-4297

March 12, 2009

Honorable Chairman Jon Sonju
and Members of the House Transportation Committee
Montana House of Representatives
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Sent via email and FAX to (406) 444-4825

Chairman Sonju and Honorable Members of the House Transportation Committee:

Enclosed is Missoula City Council Resolution 7396 supporting Senate Bill 283 introduced by Senator Ron Erickson. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Congress and President Bush recently approved the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) of 2008 which contains a provision requiring Amtrak to study reestablishing passenger rail service through southern Montana while maintaining the Empire Builder service along the Hi-Line.

In order to be eligible for any federal funding dollars authorized by the PRIIA, Montana's State Rail Plan must be up to date. Given dwindling airline service between communities in Montana, increasing fuel prices, and the energy and environmental efficiencies offered by rail travel, we believe SB 283 is important to Montana's future for our people, our economy, and our environment. SB 283 continues our efforts to position the state of Montana to receive federal funding to reestablish passenger rail service across southern Montana.

We'd appreciate your favorable support of SB 283.

Sincerely,

John Engen,
Mayor

cc: Missoula Delegation
Alec Hanson, Montana League of Cities and Towns
Gallatin Public Affairs

RESOLUTION NUMBER 7396

A RESOLUTION OF THE MISSOULA CITY COUNCIL URGING SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 283 TO POSITION THE STATE OF MONTANA TO QUALIFY FOR FEDERAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT PASSENGER RAIL SERVICES IN MONTANA UNDER THE PASSENGER RAIL INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008 .

WHEREAS, we face a dwindling supply of oil; and trains are among the most energy efficient way to move people; and

WHEREAS, commercial airline service to many counties and communities in Montana is inadequate and at risk of further reductions and/or ending altogether; and

WHEREAS, as a result of climate change we need to take every possible step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions into our endangered atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak was created in 1971 from what remained of the private passenger railroads and has been starved of investment and direction by Congress and several White House administrations; and

WHEREAS, the Empire Builder is the number one long distance passenger train in the United States, with over ninety percent on-time performance, and is greatly needed for the citizens of Montana's Hi-Line who have limited public transportation options; and

WHEREAS, the North Coast Hiawatha ceased operation through southern Montana in 1979, and transportation to and from the major populations centers of southern Montana would be greatly enhanced by passenger rail service; and

WHEREAS, the Missoula City Council, Missoula County Board of County Commissioners, Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Montana Association of Railroad Passengers have joined together to support and encourage congressional adoption of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 which contains an amendment requiring Amtrak to study the feasibility of reestablishing a passenger rail route through southern Montana while retaining Empire Builder service along the Hi-Line; and

WHEREAS, President Bush signed the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 into law on October 16, 2008.

WHEREAS, Section 24402(b)(1) of the Act states that "The Secretary may not approve a grant for a project under this section unless the Secretary finds that the project is part of a State rail plan developed under chapter 227 of this title, or under the plan required by section 211 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008, and that the applicant or recipient has or will have the legal, financial, and technical capacity to carry out the project, satisfactory continuing control over the use of the equipment or facilities, and the capability and willingness to maintain the equipment or facilities."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Missoula City Council urges the Montana legislature's approval of SB 283 which requires the Montana Department of Transportation to update the Montana

State Rail Plan to comply with the provisions of Public Law 110-432, Division B, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 in order to position the state of Montana to qualify for federal funds to support passenger rail services under the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of February, 2009.

ATTEST:

/s/ Martha L. Rehbein
Martha L. Rehbein
City Clerk

APPROVED:

/s/ John Engen
John Engen
Mayor