

SOUTHEAST MONTANA TOURISM

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SOUTHEAST
MONTANA

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Dear Interested Parties:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Visit Southeast Montana Board of Directors in support of the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority's (BSPRA's) effort to restore the former North Coast Hiawatha route.

This is an ideal initiative to fund for multiple reasons, primarily for the support, infrastructure and connectivity that passenger rail will provide for rural areas across Montana and the Western United States. Not only will the project support the citizens of rural communities, but it will also elevate and enhance visitation opportunities to difficult-to-reach areas.

Tourism is the number two industry in Montana and helps supplement many agrarian economies. The vision of BSPRA dovetails with Visit Southeast Montana's mission of "... increasing awareness of our region, showcasing cultural heritage, developing memorable experiences ..."

The Visit Southeast Montana Board of Directors supports this project and believes that passenger rail service will help create a more sustainable tourism economy while enhancing residential quality of life. We strongly urge you to support all aspects this initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda Maas".

Brenda Maas
Visit Southeast Montana
Director of Marketing