



October 13, 2010

The Honourable Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0A3

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

The Amtrak *Cascades* passenger rail service is a vital link between the communities of British Columbia and the US Pacific Northwest. Not only is it a clean, alternative mode of transportation for our citizens, but it contributes to a strong culture of collaboration that supports economic development and jobs throughout the Cascades Corridor.

We, the undersigned mayors, write today to express our strong support for the long-term continuation of the second Amtrak *Cascades* train (Train 513/516) in and out of Vancouver, B.C. This service has been a success due to nearly \$1 billion in long term investment by governments -- provincial, state and local -- from Vancouver, B.C. to Eugene, Ore. These investments have benefited our businesses through increased freight capacity on the corridor, lower cost transportation costs and improved passenger mobility.

This past year, the unique partnership that developed around the *Cascades* run was validated by a \$590 million U.S. Government commitment to invest in corridor improvements that increase freight and passenger rail mobility. The States of Washington and Oregon are currently applying for further infrastructure funding to build high quality rail infrastructure to the Canadian border to advance higher speed rail. Cancellation of the second Amtrak *Cascades* service puts this development at risk.

We ask that the Government of Canada reconsider the imposition of a cost recovery regime on the second train -- a regime which would in effect cancel the service. While we understand current budgetary pressures, this service has led to positive economic impacts in the Lower Mainland and the entire corridor. We ask that the cost recovery fee be either cancelled or suspended for a set period of time, with clear criteria of how this service can be continued. We also welcome the opportunity to work with your government and the Canadian Border Services Agency to develop and test ideas that are able to reduce the costs of border clearance.

We are committed to finding a long term workable solution to the continuation of the second Amtrak *Cascades* train. Such a solution would ensure that the current schedule is not only maintained but also expanded to reflect the growth of cultural and economic relationships in the Pacific Northwest.

Sincerely,



Sam Adams
Mayor of Portland



Gregor Robertson
City of Vancouver



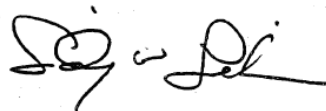
Mayor Mike McGinn
Mayor of Seattle



Kitty Piercy
Mayor of Eugene



Mayor Dan Pike
City of Bellingham



Mayor Sidney Leiken
City of Springfield, Ore.



Mike Cooper
Mayor of Edmonds

Other Mayors who have approved the letter – electronic signature pending

Mayor Bonnie Onyon, City of Blaine

Mayor Alice Norris, City of Oregon City

Mayor Rob Eaton, Mayor of Leavenworth

Mayor Dianne White, Mayor of Stanwood

Mayor Tim Leavitt, City of Vancouver, WA

Mayor Janet Paylor, City of Salem

Mayors who have drafted their own letter to Prime Minister Harper

Mayor Harlan Thompson, City of Centralia

Mayor Anthony Ketchum, City of Chehalis

Mayor Mike Cooper, City of Edmonds

Mayor Catherine Ferguson, City of White Rock

Mayor Dan Pike, City of Bellingham

Mayor David Futcher, City of Kelso

Mayor Kurt Anagnostou, Mayor of Longview

Mayor George Peary, City of Abbotsford

cc Stockwell Day, President of the Treasury Board, Minister of State for Pacific Gateway, M.P.

– Okanagan-Coquihalla

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities

Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, M.P. - Pontiac

Dean Del Mastro, Chair of All Party Rail Caucus, Co Chair of Canada/US Interparliamentary Group, M.P. - Peterborough
Rob Moore, Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism, M.P. – Fundy Royal
Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Liberal Party, MP – Etobicoke-Lakeshore
Ujjal Dosanjh, M.P. – Vancouver South
John McCallum, Transportation Critic, M.P. – Markham-Unionville
Siobhan Coady, Treasury Board Critic, M.P – St. John’s South – Mount Pearl
Bob Rae, Foreign Affairs Critic, M.P. – Toronto Center
Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety, M.P. - Provencher
Gordon Campbell, Premier of British Columbia
Shirley Bond, Minister of B.C Ministry of Transportation, MLA Prince George
Carole James, Leader of NDP (B.C.), Leader of Opposition (B.C.)
Gerry Byrne, Tourism Critic, M.P. – Humber-St. Barbe-Baie Verte
Helena Borges, Transport Canada