



TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

February 26, 2008

Mr. Alexander Kummant
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Railroad Passenger Corporation
60 Massachusetts Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Kummant,

My administration is committed to providing Ohio's urban areas with the tools they need to create jobs and attract investments to make their communities vibrant centers of commerce. Investment in a rail transportation system that links metropolitan areas with passenger rail service, while improving freight commerce, would represent one such tool.

As you may be aware, the Cleveland – Columbus – Cincinnati corridor has been studied extensively and serves as the backbone of the Ohio Hub, the state's long term vision for passenger rail in Ohio. It is my understanding that the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) has been able to develop successful partnerships with fourteen states to date. I would appreciate Amtrak's assistance in evaluating available options to implement reliable intercity passenger rail services in this corridor so that we can add Ohio to that ever growing list.

The State of Ohio requests that Amtrak study the potential implementation of new intercity service in the 138 mile Cleveland – Columbus Corridor. Ohio additionally requests that Amtrak provide a separate estimate to extend the Cleveland – Columbus Corridor to Dayton and Cincinnati. It is my hope that Amtrak can use the existing analysis to embark on the first step of an incremental approach that puts Ohio on a path to realizing the enormous economic benefits of a vibrant intercity passenger rail system.

The staff of the Ohio Rail Development Commission has already been working with Michael Franke and Ray Lang in Amtrak's Chicago Office. We hope you will continue to work with Matt Dietrich at the Ohio Rail Development Commission to further coordinate this study. He can be reached at 614-644-0295. Thank you for your assistance as we work toward making passenger rail a reality in Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted Strickland".

Ted Strickland