



Visit Brookings  
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VisitBrookingsSD.com

March 6, 2024

Federal Railroad Administration  
Long-Distance Service Study  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Visit Brookings Board of Directors, I am writing to express our strong support for the idea of bringing Amtrak Service to South Dakota. As one of the two contiguous states currently without passenger rail service, South Dakota stands to benefit significantly from this initiative.

Amtrak service would offer a reliable and efficient mode of transportation for residents, tourists, and businesses. It would connect South Dakota to neighboring states and major cities while enhancing accessibility and connectivity.

The service would especially benefit our tourism industry. Travel South Dakota recently announced a goal of becoming a top 10 destination. Amtrak service would be a pivotal piece in achieving this endeavor. Accessible rail connections would encourage more visitors to explore our state's natural beauty, historic sites, and vibrant communities.

While acknowledging the substantial costs associated with such a project, we believe that investing in Amtrak service aligns with our state's long-term vision. As you move forward in this process, please consider the immense benefit Amtrak service would bring to South Dakota. Let us seize this moment to invest in our future, enhance transportation options, and elevate our state's appeal to travelers.

Thank you for your consideration. Visit Brookings looks forward to witnessing the positive impact of Amtrak service on South Dakota's growth and prosperity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Schoen Carbonneau".

Laura Schoen Carbonneau, IOM  
Executive Director  
Visit Brookings

CC Senator John Thune  
Senator Mike Rounds  
Representative Dusty Johnson

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*We Make Tourism Happen*