

4641 Yates Road
Bensalem, PA 19020

January 4, 2006

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Mineta:

Enclosed please find copies of materials I have sent to Mr. David Laney, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Amtrak, regarding the need to take emergency action to prevent a great wrong from being done to Amtrak's 2,000 monthly pass commuters.

I realize that you rarely, if ever, attend Amtrak Board meetings, sending Mr. Jeffrey Rosen in your stead. Nevertheless, I feel it is important for you to understand the error that has been made with respect to Amtrak's most loyal daily riders, in the hope that you will use your considerable benevolent powers to help correct the situation.

Beyond that, I would simply *love* to have the opportunity to regale you with stories about Amtrak — things you won't normally hear inside the Beltway, and certainly not from Amtrak itself, or even the GAO. In September, I successfully fought to keep my little-known Amtrak station on the Northeast Corridor open. It's the last best commuting location for New York City, and Amtrak has done *everything you could possibly imagine and then some* to lose track of it and kill it. To this day, I have to put up all the Amtrak signage at the station myself, pilfer schedules from Penn Station's racks in New York City to keep the station supplied, and correct errors when the station manager gets misinformation from Amtrak about when the Amtrak trains run. Believe it or not, before I began my campaign to save the station, the *station manager* didn't even know when the trains ran, or how many there were. I'm working hard to keep the station alive, but someday I hope Amtrak will pitch in and help. I draw the line at driving the engine. ;-)

The website I used to save the station is www.savecornwellsheights.com, and the stories you will find there just might make you (or anyone) a bit wide-eyed with wonder at the way the railroad is run. The website I'm using to save the commuters who use the station is www.understandingamtrak.com, which is still in its infancy, but which may grow fast. I encourage you to check them both out.

I would like to request the honor of a meeting with you to discuss not only the plight of the Amtrak commuters, but also Amtrak issues more generally. I could meet you just about anywhere, though I would suggest Washington, New York, or Philadelphia as the most convenient locations. I hope you will consider helping 2,000 wounded commuting innocents in this way, with a bit of your time, concern, thoughts, and with your

enormous power to do good in this world. Beyond that, in all modesty, I'm said to be a pretty good conversationalist. Your time would not be wasted.

Best regards for a happy and prosperous new year.

Sincerely yours,

Rick Booth

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