

Blueprint Budget Would Decimate Amtrak and Transit Nationwide

In March, President Trump released his 2018 budget proposal, which includes severe funding cuts to Amtrak along with the elimination of federal support for Amtrak's long distance train services. Amtrak served approximately 31.3 million customers last year with many of its trains turning in record performances



Most Amtrak trains and routes - like the "California Zephyr" pictured here - stand to be discontinued under Trump's blueprint budget. For why it's so important to save Amtrak, see Page 7.

in ridership and revenues. The elimination of long distance Amtrak routes would terminate passenger service in 23 states and mean the loss of thousands of railroad jobs, translating into substantially less revenue for Railroad Retirement that all railroaders - freight as well as passenger - depend on.

All railroad workers are urged to take a few minutes and contact your elected representatives in Congress. Please tell them you oppose *any and all* federal budget cuts to Amtrak. Ironically, the regions of the country that stand to lose passenger train services are the same locales that were supportive of Trump's bid for the Presidency (see map on Page 7). Some 35 Republican law makers from such areas - often rural in nature - have been targeted by passenger rail advocacy groups like the National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP) for an all-out lobbying effort. Representatives from such districts - while often ideologically opposed to government run and/or provided services - have been known to be outspoken supporters of "their" train and vote funding for Amtrak. Check the NARP website at: www.narprail.org.

Read the full commentary: "Railroad Workers and Our Allies Must Unite in Support of Amtrak" by RWU General Secretary Ron Kaminkow on Page 7.