

March 3, 2017

The Honorable Greg White Chairman Southern Rail Commission 100 Lafayette Street Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Dear Chairman White:

To our friends on the Southern Rail Commission, I send my greetings. I wish I could be present today to discuss our joint project for long-distance service on the Gulf Coast to Florida, but it is unfortunately the case that other commitments have intervened and prevented me from attending. Because I could not be there myself, I wanted to at least take the opportunity of providing Mark Murphy with a letter that will, I hope, go some way toward demonstrating Amtrak's firm commitment to the Gulf Coast project, and our interest and support for other projects that are underway in your region.

It is thanks to the SRC that the Gulf Coast project is now approaching realization. Amtrak has supported this project throughout, and will continue to do so as we move through the final process to inaugurate the service together. We are committed to operating both the long-distance and corridor services on the Gulf Coast route as soon as the necessary funding can be arranged, and the necessary agreements are in place to implement the service.

While the Baton Rouge-New Orleans corridor and the long-distance *Crescent* service expansion project west of Meridian are not as close to fruition, Amtrak strongly supports these projects and will continue to do everything we can to work with you to bring these services to completion. I am committed along with the rest of the Amtrak team to working with the Commission and the Gulf Coast states to obtain the necessary commitments from the host railroads to determine the capital and operating needs of each service in order to advance all of these important projects.

I appreciate everything that the SRC has done to build the grass roots support for these service growth opportunities in the Deep South. Your efforts in your state capitols, in Washington, DC, and in your communities have created a strong coalition, and I am proud to count Amtrak as a part of that coalition. Amtrak will continue to demonstrate our support with all of the necessary stakeholders as these efforts move forward, and I personally look forward to working with you on the successful launch of the new long-distance service of reconnecting New Orleans and Orlando.

Sincerely,

C. W. Moorman (

President and Chief Executive Officer