



July 22, 2013

President Joseph H Boardman  
Amtrak- National Railroad Passenger Corporation  
50 Massachusetts Ave.  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear President Boardman

On behalf of America's leading cycling groups, we offer our full support for increased bicycle services on the Adirondack and Ethan Allen Lines in New York. Increasing roll-on, roll-off accessibility opens the door for millions of cyclists living in New York City and Canada – and really, from all round the world -- to easily reach multiple rural, upstate towns and a broad swath of upstate New York, Vermont and all points between. This service is an incredibly important link that will attract tourism, creating a vital economic opportunity in the region.

We also want to thank you for the invitation extended to the New York Bicycle Coalition (NYBC) and the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition (VBPC) to be part of a test run on the Ethan Allen line later this month. We look forward to working with you on this test run and any resulting policy changes.

The League of American Bicyclist's mission is to promote bicycling for fun, fitness and transportation and work through advocacy and education for a bicycle-friendly America. We do this by representing the interests of the nation's 57 million cyclists. With a current membership of 300,000 affiliated cyclists, including 25,000 individuals and 700 affiliated organizations, the League works to bring better bicycling to your community.

The Alliance for Biking and Walking is the North American Coalition of over 200 state and local organizations such as NYBC and VBPC. Our network of grassroots organizations represents hundreds of thousands of community members working to improve their communities through better and safer conditions for bicycling and walking. We also publish the Benchmarking Report that includes data about bike access to transit.

Adventure Cycling is a non-profit, membership organization with 46,000 members world-wide. Our mission is to inspire and empower people to travel by bicycle. We create bicycle touring maps for the Adventure Cycling Route Network (41,420 miles), produce an award-winning magazine, provide bicycle tours across North America, and sell bike travel gear and provide resources to make bike travel more accessible. We also provide technical assistance to state and local agencies to designate interstate bicycle routes, called the U.S. Bicycle Route System, in partnership with AASHTO.

Several recent studies show that bicycle tourism provides substantial economic benefits to communities and states. By providing this service, Amtrak will not only be improving recreational and transportation opportunities, it will be providing an economic stimulus to the region. Oregon conducted a state-wide bicycle tourism study in 2012 which demonstrated that cyclists bring the state economy more than \$400 million annually (<http://bit.ly/oregonstudy2012>) and the State of New Jersey's active transportation study conducted in 2012 showed active transportation infrastructure, business, and events added nearly \$500 million to the state economy. (<http://bit.ly/NJDOT2012>). A Wisconsin study revealed that cycling generates \$924 million annually. Clearly, these studies and many others demonstrate that providing access to cycling can positively affect city, regional and state economies and should be a part of our transportation services.

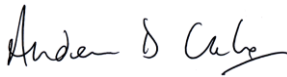
The increasing popularity in multi-modal travel, including trains for bicycle commuters and tourists, is evident from the success that the California Surfliner and Amtrak Cascades are experiencing in cyclist ridership. The picturesque, cycling-friendly roads found in several areas along the Adirondack and Ethan Allen lines already attract thousands of cyclists. Amtrak has recently worked with the League of Michigan Bicyclists, the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, and the Michigan Environmental Council to conduct pilot trials of roll-on bicycle service. The Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition, the Vermont Rail Action Network, and Amtrak are in the middle of similar tests on the Ethan Allen line. The Virginia Bicycle Federation is

engaging Amtrak as well. There is a broad groundswell of innovation and interest for improved bicycle service on Amtrak.

The ease of use that roll-on, roll-off service provides would undoubtedly attract both commuting and touring bicyclists to patronize Amtrak as their travel provider of choice. This is a unique opportunity to provide excellent alternative transportation, recreation, and tourism access for travelers not only from New York and Vermont but from around the world.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about the data on the fast-growing national and global markets in bicycle tourism.

Sincerely,



**Andy Clarke**  
President  
*League of American Bicyclists*



**Jeffrey Miller**  
President / CEO  
*Alliance for Biking & Walking*



**Jim Sayer**  
Executive Director  
*Adventure Cycling Association*

cc: Senator Charles E. Schumer, US Senator for New York  
Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand, US Senator for New York  
NY State Senator Betty Little  
NY State Senator Brad Hoylman  
Senator Mark R. Warner, US Senator for Virginia  
Senator Timothy M. Kaine, US Senator for Virginia  
Senator Carl M. Levin, US Senator for Michigan  
Senator Debbie A. Stabenow, US Senator for Michigan  
Senator Patrick J. Leahy, US Senator for Vermont  
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