

Commissioners of Mifflin County



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CHIEF CLERK
CATHY L. ROMIG
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June 23, 2016

The Honorable Thomas Wolf, Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capital Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Improved Passenger Train Service

Dear Governor Wolf:

Mifflin County would like to express its strong support for increasing passenger rail service along Amtrak's Pennsylvanian that serves the area between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. Currently, the Lewistown station in Mifflin County is serviced by only one westbound train from Harrisburg and one eastbound train from Pittsburgh per day, with connections to New York and Chicago respectively. Until a few years ago, there were at least two trains per day. However, with only one train a day, making roundtrips for our residents in a single day is almost impossible.

Based on the study entitled "On Track to Accessibility" and recent information we have received from the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership and Western Pennsylvanians for Passenger Rail, it appears that adding two additional trains per day is feasible. We concur with the analysis to date showing there is a demand for additional service and that the financial commitment would eventually be offset by the flexibility and convenience of schedules that don't currently exist with just one train a day. In fact, if you look at Amtrak's Pennsylvanian Ridership (boardings) from the Lewistown station from 2011-2015 you will see that ridership has increased by 11.28%. Another factor critical to our area is the sizeable Amish population in Mifflin County that uses the train. Mifflin County has the second largest Amish population in the Commonwealth.

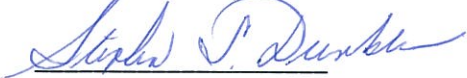
With limited air and bus access, individual automobiles are the preferred transportation option for people in our area. Three trains a day would not only bring more transportation choice to our constituents, who currently have limited or no public transportation, but would also be an economic driver for our communities and others along the Keystone corridor. Further, encouraging improvements to the surface transportation system to interconnect the community and employment destinations is consistent with the Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan.

Providing additional multi-modal transportation options has many far reaching benefits for Pennsylvania, its residents and economy. We encourage you to work for additional service from Amtrak along the Pennsylvanian. We appreciate your consideration regarding this important transportation option for the residents of Mifflin County and surrounding areas.

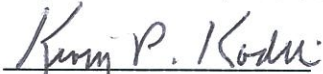
Sincerely,



Lisa V. Nancollas, Chair



Stephen T. Dunkle, Vice Chair



Kevin P. Kodish, Secretary