



June 16, 2016

The Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor:

The Greater Johnstown/Cambria County Chamber of Commerce, Inc. offers our strong support for increasing passenger-rail service along Amtrak's Pennsylvanian service between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. Currently, the Johnstown station in Cambria County is serviced by only one eastbound train from Pittsburgh and one westbound train from New York City per day, making this service very difficult and inefficient for many potential riders. Increasing this service to three eastbound and three westbound departures per day provides much better access to Cambria County residents traveling to Pittsburgh and points west, and to Harrisburg and points east along the Pennsylvanian. In addition, increasing efficient, multi-modal options for travelers has a positive impact on decreasing highway congestion and improving air quality.

A recent study by the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership titled "On Track to Accessibility" suggests ridership would nearly double with the additional daily stops, which would generate more revenue from tickets and food and beverage services. Because many existing costs are fixed, adding more passenger service will cost less proportionally compared with the cost of existing, limited service.

As air and bus service has declined and highway congestion has increased, creating viable passenger-rail service is increasingly important. In addition, more younger Americans, senior citizens and international travelers are showing a growing preference for rail travel, but the extremely limited service through our area deters them from coming here or living here. The Cambria County Comprehensive Plan to use integrated transportation to support economic development is also consistent with increased passenger-rail service.

The consensus of passenger-rail advocates was to seek three trains per day because that would give people adequate choice to make 1-day back-and-forth trips to Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and possibly Philadelphia, and overnight trips to Philadelphia, New York, Chicago and Washington, DC. Growing utilization of this service could then provide justification to seek four trains daily.

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 thank you for your time and consideration regarding this important transportation option for residents of Cambria County and surrounding areas.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Layo  
President & CEO

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