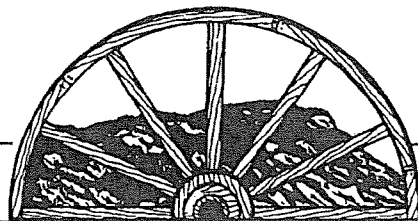


CITY OF



LA GRANDE

THE HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON

OFFICE of the MAYOR AND COUNCIL P.O. BOX 670 LA GRANDE, OREGON 97850 PHONE (541) 962-1309 FAX (541) 963-3333

October 9, 2009

Jonathan Hutchison
Government Affairs Director - West
Amtrak
530 Water Street
Fifth Floor
Oakland, California 94607

Dear Mr. Hutchison,

The City of La Grande is in full support of the restoration of the Amtrak Pioneer Line. Included with this cover letter is a copy of our Resolution Number 4518, Series 2007. Additionally, it is worth noting the references to the Amtrak passenger rail service in the City's Urban Renewal Plan, outlined below.

References from the City of La Grande Urban Renewal Plan of 1999:

III. MISSION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

E. Goal 5: Transportation

Take full advantage of public and private transportation via Interstate 84, the Railroad and the Union County Airport.

Objectives:

- 1. Restore Passenger Rail Service**
Work with Amtrak and government offices (federal, state and local) to restore passenger rail service to La Grande as part of a Portland to Boise line.

Other points to consider:

- 1. Union County Tourism will work with Amtrak in promoting the train and tying it in with attractions in Union County, including the Eagle Cap Excursion Train.**
- 2. La Grande's regularly scheduled intercity transportation consists of Greyhound bus service, some bus shuttles to nearby cities through Northeast Oregon Public Transit and very limited air service. There is a huge need for better public transit services.**
- 3. Winter conditions create very difficult intercity travel by road, making passenger rail service an important public resource.**

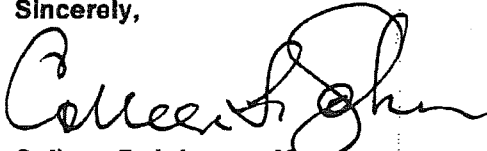
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Jonathan Hutchison
Government Affairs Director
Amtrak West
October 9, 2009
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4. Eastern Oregon University provides a ready source of potential passenger rail users; and EOU's new President is focused on enrollment growth, which is already occurring. Growth in enrollment equals potential growth in ridership.

The City of La Grande encourages Amtrak to strongly consider the restoration of the Pioneer Line and the enhanced economic opportunities it could bring to our community; and we pledge our support of assisting Amtrak in this restoration.

Sincerely,



Colleen F. Johnson, Mayor
City of La Grande, Oregon

CFJ

pc: Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Jeff Merkley
Kathleen Cathey, La Grande Field Office for Senator Wyden
Marilyn Levine, Dean, Eastern Oregon University
Judy Hector, Executive Director, Union County Chamber of Commerce
Janet Dodson, Executive Director, Union County Tourism
Union County Board of Commissioners
C. B. Hall, Coordinator, Pioneer Restoration Organization
R. W. Rynerson, Amtrak
Bob Melbo, Oregon Department of Transportation
Ronald K. Kerr, Idaho Department of Transportation

MITCHELL/LUND/RY DOCUMENTS/COUNCIL FOLDER/COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE/AMTRAK 2009

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To: RICK

