

Adopted Via Unanimous Consent



SENATE RESOLUTION #2986

TITLE: ASUW Supports the Return of Passenger Rail to Wyoming

DATE INTRODUCED: 04/09/24

AUTHOR: Senator Langford

SPONSORS: President Murfitt, Vice President Anderson, Senator(s) Knull, Hennigar, Grimm, Gomelsky, Rzeszut, Moore, Brown, Schliebe, Gundling, Keasling, Culp; First-Year Senator(s) Hargett, Mackenzie, Morales, Harper, Fink; Chief of Legislative Affairs Knopp; Director of Community and Governmental Affairs Bouma; Student(s)-At-Large: Corkern; Student Organization(s): Environmental & Natural Resources Club

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible; and,
3. WHEREAS, the State of Wyoming owes its existence to the railroads that
4. have crisscrossed through the state; and,
5. WHEREAS, the University of Wyoming and the State of Wyoming has benefitted from
6. the rail transportation industry and has previously benefitted from the existence of
7. passenger rail for decades until the discontinuation of the Amtrak Pioneer route in 1997;
8. and,
9. WHEREAS, the return of passenger rail to the State of Wyoming and thereby to the City
10. of Laramie would be immensely beneficial for the economy of the state
11. and significantly improve travel for many Wyoming residents and students at
12. the University of Wyoming and,
13. WHEREAS, the United States Federal Railroad Administration has
14. proposed three Amtrak new routes that would cross through Wyoming, as seen in
15. Addendum A; and,
16. WHEREAS, there are efforts in the Rocky Mountain region to create a regional light
17. rail network that would also go through Wyoming, as seen in Addendum B; and,
18. WHEREAS, there is a significant push for a return for passenger rail in Wyoming on a
19. local and state level; and,
20. WHEREAS, the Albany County Commissioners has adopted a resolution expressing

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21. support for the return of passenger rail to Wyoming and Albany County, as seen in
22. Addendum C; and,
23. WHEREAS, the City Council of Laramie has adopted a resolution expression
24. expressing support for the return of passenger rail to Wyoming and Laramie,
25. as seen in Addendum D; and,
26. WHEREAS, ASUW is obligated to proactively support ideas and solutions that would
27. immensely benefit the student population of the University of Wyoming; and,
28. WHEREAS, the return of passenger rail with a potential stop in Laramie would provide
29. increased accessibility, mobility, and safety to the student body; and,
30. WHEREAS, passenger rail is one of the most environmentally friendly forms of
31. transportation available and is a net benefit to the values of the student body; and,
32. WHEREAS, ASUW believes that passenger rail transportation would solve issues for
33. lack of transportation in the Rocky Mountain region and between Laramie, Cheyenne,
34. and Denver; and,
35. WHEREAS, passenger rail transportation ought to return to Laramie and the State of
36. Wyoming.
37. THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Associated Students of the University of
38. Wyoming calls for the return of passenger rail transportation to the City of Laramie
39. and the State of Wyoming; and,
40. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the President of ASUW is directed to
41. collaborating with other universities, colleges, and community college student
42. governments in the states of Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nebraska, South Dakota, and
43. Montana, this to possibly have similar resolutions passed to be sent to the
44. state and federal delegations of their states; and
45. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the President of the Associated Students of the
46. University of Wyoming shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the
47. University of Wyoming, the Board of Trustees, the Mayor & City Council of Laramie,
48. the Albany County Commissioners, the Branding Iron; and,
49. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted
50. by the ASUW President to the Governor of Wyoming, the Speaker of the Wyoming
51. House of Representatives, the President of the Wyoming Senate, and every member of

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52. Wyoming's federal delegation; and,

53. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that this legislation takes effect upon this

54. resolution's passage.

Referred to: AD&P

Date of Passage: April 16th, 2024 Signed: 

(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on April 16th, 2024, I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve this

Senate action.” 

ASUW President

ADDENDUM A



Actual study and proposal: https://fralongdistancerailstudy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/FRA_LDSS_Presentation_for_Web_Meeting3_Optimized.pdf

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ADDENDUM B

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0005

Passenger rail service.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Sherwood, Eklund, Larson, JT,
Niemiec, Storer, Trujillo, Wylie and
Zwonitzer, Dv and Senator(s) Kolb and Schuler

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION in support of interstate passenger rail
2 expansion.

3

4 WHEREAS, the railroad has shaped the history of Wyoming. From
5 the first tracks laid in 1867, the establishment of a
6 transcontinental railroad attracted new residents west and
7 provided Wyoming's agricultural and mineral products access
8 to distant markets. It also created supporting industries,
9 including locomotive maintenance, steel manufacturing, coal
10 mining and logging for railroad ties that spurred economic
11 development; and

12

13 WHEREAS, while Wyoming's railroads historically offered
14 extensive passenger service, there has been no regularly

ADDENDUM C

Resolution 2024-006
Restoring Daily Passenger Rail Service to Albany County
March 5, 2024

Whereas, Albany County enjoyed passenger rail service for nearly one hundred and thirty years until the termination of Amtrak service in 1997; and,

Whereas, the Federal Railroad Administration has identified three passenger rail routes in Wyoming, including one along the I-80 corridor through Laramie and Albany County in Southern Wyoming, as "Selected Proposed Preferred Routes" for restored service in its Long-Distance Survey Study; and,

Whereas, public comments on the proposed routes in the Long-Distance Survey Study are due on March 8, 2024; and,

Whereas, a group of Laramie and Albany County residents have been gathering signatures from local individuals and businesses requesting public proclamations and letters of support for the restoration of daily passenger rail service in Laramie and Albany County; and,

Whereas, an online petition to bring passenger rail service to the Wyoming I-80 corridor has gained nearly 2,000 signatures; and,

Whereas, in the last three years, other Wyoming local governments have issued proclamations, resolutions, and letters of support for expanded passenger rail services, and these jurisdictions include: Uinta County Commissioners; City of Rock Springs; Sweetwater County Commissioners; Carbon County Commissioners; Platte County Commissioners; City of Douglas; City of Greybull; Campbell County Commissioners; City of Sundance; Converse County Commissioners; Washakie County Commissioners; City of Sheridan; and, Sheridan County Commissioners; and,

Whereas, restored long-distance and intercity passenger rail service offers the promise of significant positive economic impact for our community; and

Whereas, Long-distance passenger train routes are ideal for connecting major urban areas with each other and with smaller cities and communities—many in rural areas—which are becoming more isolated as intercity bus services disappear; and

Whereas, passenger rail serves a variety of traveler needs including the needs of travelers who cannot drive, prefer not to drive in inclement weather, or otherwise prefer the choice of rail travel;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Albany County Board of County Commissioners:

1. The Albany County, Wyoming Board of County Commissioners support the return of daily passenger rail service to our community and call upon all residents

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ADDENDUM D

LARAMIE CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO: 2024-21

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PASSENGER RAIL RESTORATION TO THE CITY OF LARAMIE AND EXPANSION TO RURAL WYOMING AND THE WEST

WHEREAS, The City of Laramie, Albany County, and Wyoming are underserved by long-distance intercity passenger rail options and Amtrak's recent service announcement and accompanying Connect Us plan service map fails to recognize that short;

WHEREAS, since the dissolution of the Amtrak Pioneer in 1997, the citizens of Laramie have not had decent access to passenger rail service;

WHEREAS, hazardous weather can inhibit travel and regularly closes Interstate 80 in southern Wyoming for extended periods;

WHEREAS, the significant economic impact intercity passenger rail service can provide has fueled interest at the local, county, and state level in the Greater Northwest region to join forces to find innovative ways to provide transportation alternatives to citizens;

WHEREAS, long-distance passenger train routes are ideal for connecting major urban areas with each other and with smaller cities and communities, many in rural areas, which are becoming more isolated as some regional airlines and intercity bus services disappear;

WHEREAS, passenger rail has multiple service capabilities that airlines cannot match, a single rail line can simultaneously serve local, regional, and long-distance travel needs safely transporting some passengers long distances while carrying local passengers to work, medical providers, or social events;

WHEREAS, passenger rail serves a variety of travelers needs in places where other modes of travel are not available or less convenient including those travelers who cannot drive prefer not to drive in inclement weather or otherwise prefer the choice of rail travel;

WHEREAS, passenger rail provides multiple environmental benefits as one of the greenest modes of ground transportation, such as approximately three times more efficient in greenhouse gas emissions per passenger as travel by car;

WHEREAS, President Biden has expressed interest in "sparking the second great railroad revolution."

WHEREAS, the USDOT Federal Railroad Administration's Long-Distance Service Study has identified a route from Denver to Los Angeles which runs along the Interstate 80 corridor as a "Preferred Route",

NOW THEREFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF LARAMIE, WYOMING, RESOLVES:

Section 1. That the City of Laramie City Council hereby supports restoration of daily Amtrak passenger rail service along the southern Wyoming, Interstate 80, corridor by:

- a. Advocating to a bipartisan group in Congress representing this region to work toward restoring passenger rail service to the Greater Northwest;
- b. Supporting congressionally authorized funding sufficient to restore and revitalize passenger rail service in the United States for rural long-distance routes and expansion of the national rural long-distance network.