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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

March 6, 2020

JOHN KEAST, STAFF DIRECTOR
DAVID STRICKLAND, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

Mr. Richard Anderson
President and Chief Executive Officer
Amtrak
1 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I am writing to request information from your company on actions you are taking to address the potential spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) on Amtrak's system. The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has been focused on the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) through modes of transportation. In particular, we have sought to identify any gaps in the Federal guidance or assistance to U.S. transportation providers. Through this letter, we would like to work with you to understand and mitigate risk to your employees and the traveling public.

Since COVID-19 was first identified in Wuhan, China last year, the virus has spread to a number of countries throughout the world, including the United States, by air travel. This spread has raised understandable concerns by public health officials and the traveling public about measures that can be taken to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 not just through air travel, but through all modes of transportation.

To date, however, there has been limited public guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) or other Federal health and security agencies regarding steps transportation carriers or the traveling public should take to address COVID-19. Therefore, in order to more fully understand the measures Amtrak is taking in response to COVID-19 and additional Federal steps and resources that may be needed, I request that you provide the following information:

- 1) Does Amtrak have a pandemic response plan?
 - a. If so, please provide a copy of that plan or protocols, and indicate whether the plan has been implemented for some or all operations.
 - b. Has the DOT provided adequate guidance on this plan or protocol specific to COVID-19? If not, would such additional guidance be helpful?
 - c. If no such plan exists, is Amtrak in the process of developing a pandemic response plan either generally or specific to COVID-19? If so, when is such plan expected to be completed and implemented?

- 2) Please detail your railcar and station cleaning policies, including:
 - a. Disinfection measures after each trip;
 - b. End-of-day cleaning and disinfection policies;
 - c. Policies for disinfecting railcars or facilities when a passenger with COVID-19 or other serious communicable disease is identified or detected on a recent manifest;
 - d. Whether these policies have been vetted with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), or similar independent health or disease control entity; and
 - e. Whether additional guidance or standardized recommendations on COVID-19 specific disinfection practices would be helpful from the DOT or CDC.

- 3) Please provide any health guidance, messaging, or other information regarding precautions Amtrak has taken in response to COVID-19, and detail how that information has, or will be, disseminated to Amtrak employees and customers, including:
 - a. Any policies guiding the dissemination of such information;
 - b. How and in what manner such information has been disseminated;
 - c. To whom such information has been disseminated; and
 - d. What languages such information has been disseminated in.

- 4) Please detail your company's policy for notifying passengers when COVID-19 or other serious communicable disease is detected or later discovered. Would further Federal guidance in this area from the DOT or CDC be helpful?

- 5) Please detail your company's policies regarding the waiver of change or cancellation fees when a passenger indicates that they have, or suspect they may have, a serious communicable disease.
 - a. If your company does not have such a policy, do you plan to implement such a policy and communicate the specifics of that policy to the public?
 - b. Would standardized guidance from DOT regarding change and cancellation policies be helpful in this area?

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this request. I request that you provide the requested information as soon as possible and in no event later than March 13, 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Cantwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Maria" and last name "Cantwell" clearly legible.

MARIA CANTWELL
Ranking Member