



Visit Rapid City

512 Main Street Suite 240 | Rapid City, SD

605-718-8485 | 800-487-3223

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March 8, 2024

US Department of Transportation  
Federal Railroad Administration

Re: FRA Long Distance Rail Study

To Whom it May Concern,

Please consider this our letter of support for passenger rail development through South Dakota. We have a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity to invest in our nation's infrastructure and need a bold vision and workable action plan to make this a reality.

Our state and our region have been underserved by long-distance passenger rail options for over 50 years. The Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Working Group will study and develop service development plans for restoring passenger rail within the Greater Northwest region with the goal to further the economic opportunity and quality of life of rural America.

Passenger rail service creates strong social, family, and business ties, and provides the necessary infrastructure to drive lift in visitor economies across the route. The routes to be considered will link South Dakota to other communities in the Greater Northwest Region and provide much needed economic and environmental benefits to our state and others.

We request that you support the next steps required to provide passenger rail service by forming this FRA Working Group to develop cost-benefit and economic impact analyses and service development plans.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brook Kaufman".

Brook Kaufman, CDME, CTA  
CEO – Visit Rapid City