



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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May 28, 2019

Senator Allen
State Capitol, 10th & L Streets, Room #4076
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attention: Zak Castillo-Krings

RE: SB 742 (Allen) Intercity passenger Rail Services: Motor Coach Transportation of Passengers

Dear Senator Allen:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of SB 742 which would amend Section 14035.55 provisions to enable Joint Powers Authorities to pick up and drop off passengers on their Amtrak intercity thruway bus routes without requiring them to have a train ticket.

We appreciate that SB 742 provisions would increase revenues for the state at virtually no additional cost, provide improved access to priority and underserved communities, reduce the amount of greenhouse gases and air pollution emissions by diverting trips that would have previously been taken by an automobile, and provides better utilization of current infrastructure and reduces congestion on some the state's most congested freeways.

California's Amtrak Thruway Bus Network is one of the largest intercity bus networks in the United States, connecting over 250 communities throughout California and major cities in Nevada. This network is underutilized because of Section 14035.55 restrictions on who can use this network, being limited to only those who ride a train on a segment of their travel. By eliminating this restriction, the state could provide transportation services to more people while reducing energy consumption and emissions. Amending Section 14035.55 could have a very positive effect on California's underserved priority and rural communities by providing a convenient and in expensive alternative to the rising costs of automobile and airline travel.

Eureka, Humboldt County's seat, is located almost 300 miles from San Francisco, the state's nearest major metropolitan area. Greyhound travels this route, but in recent years has greatly reduced the number of stops between these two cities. Amtrak is the only other intercity transit alternative. Passengers with destinations in locations such as Vallejo, Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Healdsburg, Laytonville, Garberville, Fortuna and the Humboldt County Airport (in Arcata) would benefit greatly from being able to disembark from Amtrak Thruway buses traveling this route. Many of Amtrak's and Greyhound's passengers on the North Coast are from underserved populations for whom air travel and private travel are not affordable.

For these reasons, we are pleased to provide this letter of support for SB 742 to help move California forward.

Sincerely,

Rex Bohn, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors