



Natrona County Commissioners

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Steven Freel, Commissioner
Dallas Laird, Commissioner
Jim Milne, Commissioner
Peter Nicolaysen, Commissioner
Dave North, Commissioner

March 8, 2024

All Aboard Northwest

Dan Bilka, Co-Founder & President; Coordinator, Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Coalition

dan@allaboardnw.org

contactus@fralongdistancestudy.org

re: Passenger rail in Wyoming

To Whom It May Concern:

The Board of Natrona County Commissioners in Natrona County, Wyoming is submitting this letter on behalf of Natrona County in strong support of establishing passenger rail through the City of Casper and Natrona County, Wyoming.

One of the passenger rail routes identified on the "Proposed Network of Preferred Routes" would travel between Billings, Montana and Denver, Colorado with a stop in Natrona County, Wyoming. This route would substantially benefit our community and our citizens and new provisions in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Section 22210 - Preserving Amtrak through Rural Communities) were established precisely for serving rural communities like ours.

Passenger rail would further our efforts to connect rural communities in Wyoming, which are currently primarily accessed by vehicular traffic along roads and highways. Weather, road construction and other factors can limit that access across those roads and highways and providing an additional passenger option would greatly help the people of Wyoming for generations to come.

There would also be significant economic benefit to Natrona County and Central Wyoming which would help stabilize our local economy. Passenger rail would certainly help us address our persistent labor shortages and could encourage our youth to remain in Wyoming.

Passenger rail would likely be an economical way for citizens without reliable vehicular transportation or for individuals that cannot afford airline tickets to travel for personal and business reasons to and from important hub-cities in the Rocky Mountain region.

For these reasons, the Board of Natrona County Commissioners is committed to support the establishment of passenger rail service in and through Natrona County, Wyoming.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter C. Nicolaysen".

Peter C. Nicolaysen, Chairman
Board of Natrona County Commissioners