

***My name is Spring Bartlett. I am a resident of Halfway in northeastern Oregon and am greatly interested in the creation of passenger rail service through northern and eastern Oregon in the form of the restoration of the old Amtrak Pioneer line. This line has been identified as the “Seattle-Denver route” by the Federal Rail Administration as a potential candidate for creation in their recent long-distance rail study, delivered to Congress earlier this year. Its creation would provide resilient, sustainable and equitable transit options for a large portion of eastern Oregon’s residents which would result in economic growth and social cohesion between eastern and western Oregon. Especially considering that we just lost our only public transit option in or out of NE Oregon on the I-84 corridor with the cancellation of the Greyhound bus route between Boise and Portland.***

***I have been working towards the restoration of the Pioneer since 2019 with the grassroots group Panhandle4Passenger Rail. Since then my need for public transportation has increased with my declining ability to drive due to vision changes and with an increased frequency of I-84 closures due to more severe winter conditions. At the same time, my options have decreased with the stopping of the bus service through Baker City. I still dream of a day when my grandkids can take the Amtrak Pioneer from Salt Lake City to come visit. Please work with Idaho to make this a reality, even if it ends up being for me to visit my great-grandkids.***

***Thank you for your time and consideration. I am eagerly watching the development of the 2025 transportation package and am excited to see a reinvestment in a multi-modal transit system that is resilient, accessible, sustainable and works for all Oregonians.***

***Spring Bartlett***

***Halfway, Oregon***