

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To establish the Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Working Group to facilitate the connection of the underserved rural population in the Northwestern United States to the national passenger rail network.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—117th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. _____

To authorize elements of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Ms. BALDWIN

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following:

2 **SEC. 2311. GREATER NORTHWEST PASSENGER RAIL SERV-**
3 **ICE WORKING GROUP.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) GREATER NORTHWEST REGION.—The term
6 “Greater Northwest Region” means—

7 (A) Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Col-
8 orado, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, and
9 South Dakota; and

10 (B) the portions of Minnesota and Wis-
11 consin that are serviced by the Empire Builder

1 long-distance passenger train route operated by
2 Amtrak.

3 (2) WORKING GROUP.—The term “Working
4 Group” means the Greater Northwest Passenger
5 Rail Service Working Group convened pursuant to
6 subsection (b).

7 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
10 shall convene a working group dedicated to enhanc-
11 ing intercity and interstate rail passenger service in
12 the Greater Northwest Region.

13 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Working Group shall
14 be composed of—

15 (A) 1 or more representatives of the Fed-
16 eral Railroad Administration, 1 of whom shall
17 serve as Chair of the Working Group;

18 (B) 1 or more representatives of Amtrak;

19 (C) a representative of each of the States
20 in the Greater Northwest Region;

21 (D) representatives of regional transpor-
22 tation planning organizations and metropolitan
23 planning organizations, municipalities, and
24 communities in the Greater Northwest Region,
25 which shall be selected by the Secretary;

1 (B) the Pioneer long-distance passenger
2 train route that operated between Seattle, Port-
3 land, Boise, Salt Lake City, Denver, and Chi-
4 cago;

5 (2) develop recommendations for how the Fed-
6 eral Railroad Administration and Amtrak could
7 work with local communities and organizations to
8 develop activities and programs to continuously im-
9 prove public use of intercity passenger rail service in
10 the Greater Northwest Region, including multi-
11 modal connections to the suggested rail services;

12 (3) identify and evaluate all feasible options for
13 restoring and expanding intercity passenger rail
14 service in the Greater Northwest Region, which may
15 include appropriate connections with relevant des-
16 tinations beyond the Greater Northwest Region;

17 (4) select preferred options for restoring or ex-
18 panding the service described in paragraph (3);

19 (5) develop a prioritized inventory of capital
20 projects and other actions required to restore the
21 service described in paragraph (3), including cost es-
22 timates for such projects or actions; and

23 (6) identify Federal and non-Federal funding
24 sources required to restore the service described in
25 paragraph (3), including options for entering into

1 public-private partnerships to restore or expand such
2 service.

3 (d) POTENTIAL ROUTES.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Potential intercity passenger
5 rail routes within the Greater Northwest Region
6 identified pursuant to subsection (c)(3) shall in-
7 clude—

8 (A) a route between Chicago, Illinois and
9 Portland, Oregon or Seattle, Washington
10 through southern Montana;

11 (B) a route between Denver, Colorado and
12 Billings, Montana, including points beyond;

13 (C) a route between Salt Lake City, Utah
14 and Butte, Montana, including points beyond;

15 (D) a route between Salt Lake City, Utah
16 and Portland, Oregon; and

17 (E) interconnections among the routes de-
18 scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

19 (2) OTHER FACTORS.—In evaluating and
20 prioritizing intercity passenger rail routes pursuant
21 to subsection (c), the Working Committee shall give
22 additional consideration to routes that—

23 (A) link and serve large and small commu-
24 nities throughout the Greater Northwest Re-
25 gion;

1 (B) further the economic and social well
2 being of rural America; and

3 (C) provide enhanced connectivity for the
4 national long-distance passenger rail system.

5 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
6 of the enactment of this Act, the Working Group shall sub-
7 mit a service development plan to the Committee on Com-
8 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the
9 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
10 House of Representatives that includes—

11 (1) the preferred options selected under sub-
12 section (c)(4), including the reasons for selecting
13 such options;

14 (2) the information described in subsection
15 (c)(5);

16 (3) the funding sources identified pursuant to
17 subsection (c)(6);

18 (4) the costs and benefits of restoring intercity
19 rail passenger transportation in the Greater North-
20 west Region; and

21 (5) any other information the Working Group
22 determines appropriate.

23 (f) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available to the
24 Federal Railroad Administration for fiscal year 2022,
25 \$7,000,000 shall be reserved—

- 1 (1) to provide financial assistance to Working
- 2 Group to perform independent technical analyses of
- 3 the issues described in subsection (c); and
- 4 (2) to pay for any administrative expenses that
- 5 the Secretary determines to be necessary.