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**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2026 11:56 AM

**Subject:** [External] Amtrak | Letter of Support Request | National Railroad Partnership Program | Additional Airo Trains

[External]

Good morning, Chair Perchlik and Chair Coffey,

I hope you are well.

I am writing to respectfully request a joint letter of support from the Vermont Legislature's Transportation Committees to help advance Amtrak's effort to secure funding for additional Airo trainsets, critical equipment that will directly benefit communities across Vermont and throughout our region.

As you know, Amtrak has already procured 83 Airo trainsets, funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. These new trains will begin entering service between 2026 and 2031 and represent a major step forward in domestic manufacturing, operational efficiency, and national mobility. However, additional trainsets are needed. Ridership has now surpassed pre-pandemic levels, and demand continues to grow across the Northeast and nationally. Expanding our Airo order is essential to increase service frequencies, improve reliability, and replace aging equipment that is well beyond its useful life. A larger fleet will reduce service disruptions and strengthen systemwide performance.

Your support would make a meaningful difference as Amtrak works with federal partners to secure the resources needed to expand and modernize our national fleet. The application deadline is Friday, February 6.

Attached are:

1. A template joint letter for your consideration
2. A one-page summary of the Airo program

Thank you for your continued leadership on transportation issues and for your support of intercity passenger rail. Please let me know if any member would like a briefing or additional information. I also want to note that I plan to be in Vermont on **March 12 and 13**, and it is my hope to thank each of you in person during my visit.

With gratitude,

Margaret

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