

FRENCH HILL
2ND DISTRICT, ARKANSAS



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Congress of the United States
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September 30, 2019

Mr. Richard H. Anderson
President and CEO
Amtrak
60 Massachusetts Ave NE
Washington, DC 20002-4285

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I write today to inform you that the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, is the most recent recipient of my Golden Fleece Award for being unable to account for \$4 million in equipment and for a lack of asset management controls.

According to the Amtrak Office of Inspector General (OIG), during an audit of maintenance-of-way (MOW) equipment, the engineering department at Amtrak could not “account for an estimated \$4.1 million of this equipment despite making efforts during our audit to account for it.”¹ Further, the OIG determined that “the department is not positioned to manage and account for the \$370 million in new MOW and rolling stock equipment that the company is purchasing through 2023.”²

Amtrak runs a deficit each year and requires federal assistance to cover operating losses and capital investment. I am concerned that Amtrak is not instituting reforms that will provide the program with long-term sustainability and ensure good stewardship of hardworking taxpayers’ dollars.

When our nation is more than \$22 trillion in debt, our federal agencies must be good stewards of taxpayers’ dollars. Should you require any additional authority from Congress to address these concerns, I urge you to notify us as soon as possible. I thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

French Hill
Member of Congress

¹ National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, Office of Inspector General. “Asset Management: Improved Inventory Practices Could Help the Company Better Manage its Maintenance-of-Way and Rolling Stock Equipment.” OIG-A-2019-010. July 25, 2019.

² Ibid.