

August 8, 2025

Roger Harris
President
Amtrak
1 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Harris:

I write to express my disappointment and concern with the recent handling of the suspension of several roundtrips of Illinois Amtrak service.

It is my understanding that Amtrak was long aware of scheduled maintenance along Illinois routes, yet failed to provide sufficient notice to residents in recent weeks. I am concerned that Quincy now has reduced service, and that Illinois service interruptions may continue in the coming weeks, without proper notice for residents to adjust their travel plans. Although Amtrak has instated replacement bus service, this can add hours of additional travel time on a route such as Quincy to Chicago.

I respectfully request that Amtrak work with the Illinois Department of Transportation to ensure there are as few interruptions as possible for all Illinois routes on which train cars require maintenance upgrades. I understand that timely maintenance is crucial, but Illinoisans who rely on Amtrak service need these suspensions to be resolved as quickly as possible through whatever means available, including replacement locomotives.

Thank you for your attention to this timely issue.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator