



**Prairie County**  
**Montana**

**Board of County Commissioners**

P.O. Box 125 • Terry, MT 59349

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Re: Railroad Authority

The Prairie County Commissioners are in full support of getting passenger train service on Montana's south rail line.

Prairie County is the home of elderly residents. Our average age is one of the oldest in the United States. Reasonable transportation options, currently, are by automobile only for all our residents.

Being an elderly population, a larger than average percentage of our population do not have the ability to travel to another community by themselves due to their physical and mental restrictions that may forbid them from traveling via passenger car without assistance. We have no bus service and to travel by air our constituents have to travel 175 miles to the nearest commercial flight airport. Due to age, Prairie County residents do not have the flexibility or mobility as compared to most other communities.

Because of less demand of coal, use of the southern line has dramatically reduced rail traffic making room for other uses such as passenger train.

Passenger train would be a huge asset to our elderly population for either points of final destination or linking to other means of transportation to final destination.

Again, we wholeheartedly support.

**Board of County Commissioners**

Deanna Bockness • Todd Devlin • Dennis Teske