

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-37**

**REGARDING AMTRAK PASSENGER SERVICE TO BELEN, CLOVIS AND AMARILLO**

**WHEREAS**, Amtrak passenger rail service is a Federal government service and operating expenses should be bourn by the Federal government and not the taxpayers of New Mexico, and

**WHEREAS**, Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad owns the rail line used by the Southwest Chief (Chicago to Los Angeles), however the segment between Albuquerque and southwestern Kansas does not generate sufficient freight to maintain the track to Amtrak standards (79 MPH), and

**WHEREAS**, BNSF is seeking a multi-million dollar annual subsidy from the States of New Mexico, Colorado and Kansas if the current routing of the Southwestern Chief is to be maintained, and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez is on record opposing a New Mexico subsidy of passenger rail service, and

**WHEREAS**, Amtrak is proposing to reroute the Southwest Chief via Chicago-Amarillo-Clovis-Belen-Los Angeles (see attached map), and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed realignment of would not require a subsidy by New Mexico taxpayers, and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed realignment would provide more convenient access to rail passenger service for Valencia County (Los Lunas/Belen); Curry County (Clovis/Portales); and other New Mexico Counties closer to the proposed route such as Socorro and Chaves (Roswell/Artesia)

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Valencia County Board of County Commissioners hereby agree as follows:

1. The proposed 2016 rerouting of Amtrak's Southwest Chief passenger train service between Chicago, Illinois and Los Angeles, California merits a professional cost/benefit analysis versus upgrading and maintaining the current route (i.e., Lamy, Las Vegas, Raton, Trinidad, La Junta, CO, Lamar, CO, Garden City, KS and Dodge City, KS).
2. The cost for such an analysis be paid for by Amtrak and/or the United States government.
3. The County Manager is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation, New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez, the Valencia County

Legislative Delegation, the five Mayors of Valencia County Municipalities; the Executive Directors of the New Mexico Association of Counties and the New Mexico Municipal League and the President and CEO of Amtrak.

**APPROVED, ADOPTED AND PASSED** on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2014.



Charles D. Eaton  
Chairman, District IV



Alicia Aguilar  
Vice-Chair, District II



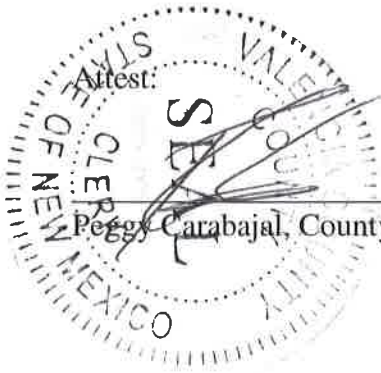
Mary J. Anderson  
Commissioner, District I



Lawrence R. Romero  
Commissioner, District III



Jhonathan Aragon  
Commissioner, District V



Peggy Carabajal, County Clerk