

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 46

Approved February 12, 1982

WHEREAS, In December of 1981, Congress approved a \$569 Million Amtrack subsidy which included a proviso forbidding the railroad to use its money to pay local or state taxes, and

WHEREAS, This congressional action will cost the City of Providence to lose \$581,000 in tax revenue, notwithstanding other communities in our State, who will lose thousands of dollars,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Rhode Island's Congressional Delegation is hereby requested to introduce legislation to eliminate the Property Tax Exemption to Amtrack.

IN CITY COUNCIL

FEB 4 1982

READ AND PASSED

Robert F. Lynch  
PRES.

Ben Mendonca CLERK

APPROVED

James H. Cianci  
MAYOR

FEB 12 1982

Councilman Paulino, Dillon, Johnson, Brennan and Norris

1902  
JAN 10 1902

February 22, 1982

Honorable John H. Chafee  
301 Post Office Annex  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Senator Chafee:

Enclosed is certified copy of Resolution No. 46,  
approved February 12, 1982, which is self-explanatory.

Councilmen Paolino, Dillon, Johnson, Brennan and  
Moise are the sponsors of said Resolution.

Very truly yours,

Rose M. Mendonca,  
City Clerk.

RMM/jma

February 22, 1982

Honorable Claiborne DeB. Pell  
418 Federal Building, USCH  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Senator Pell:

Enclosed is certified copy of Resolution No. 46,  
approved February 12, 1982, which is self-explanatory.

Councilmen Paolino, Dillon, Johnson, Brennan and  
Moise are the sponsors of said Resolution.

Very truly yours,

Rose M. Mendonca,  
City Clerk.

RMM/jma

February 22, 1982

Honorable Fernand J. St. Germain  
202 John E. Fogarty Federal Building  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Representative St. Germain:

Enclosed is certified copy of Resolution No. 46,  
approved February 12, 1982, which is self-explanatory.

Councilmen Paolino, Dillon, Johnson, Brennan and  
Moise are the sponsors of said Resolution.

Very truly yours,

Rose M. Mendonca,  
City Clerk.

RMM/jma

February 22, 1982

Honorable Claudine Schneider  
307 Post Office Annex  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Representative Schneider:

Enclosed is certified copy of Resolution No. 46,  
approved February 12, 1982, which is self-explanatory.

Councilmen Paolino, Dillon, Johnson, Brennan and  
Moise are the sponsors of said Resolution.

Very truly yours,

Rose M. Mendonca,  
City Clerk.

RMM/jma

ROBERT T. STAFFORD, VT., CHAIRMAN

HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., TENN.      JENNINGS RANDOLPH, W. VA.  
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BAILEY GUARD, STAFF DIRECTOR  
JOHN W. YAGO, JR., MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 1, 1982

Ms. Rose M. Mendonca  
City Clerk  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island

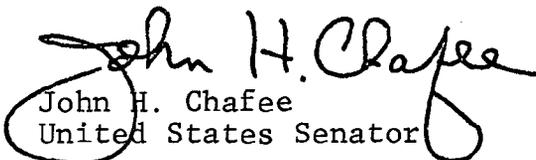
Dear Ms. Mendonca:

Thank you for contacting me regarding provisions of a public law that grant Amtrak an exemption from state and local property taxes.

I share your concern about the impact this provision will have on the many cities and towns in Rhode Island. My office has been in touch with the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns on this matter, and I am aware of the legal action being contemplated by that group. In addition, I will work here in the Senate to see if this situation can be changed. This may not be possible, however, until later on this summer when Congress considers another appropriations bill for Amtrak.

I appreciate hearing from you and look forward to working with you on this.

Sincerely,

  
John H. Chafee  
United States Senator

JHC/jst

CHARLES MC C. MATHIAS, JR., MD., CHAIRMAN  
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WILLIAM MC WHORTER COCHRANE, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 4, 1982

Ms. Rose M. Mendonca  
City Clerk  
City of Providence  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Ms. Mendonca:

Thank you for sending me a copy of Resolution Number 46 regarding the AMTRAK property tax exemption recently adopted by the Congress.

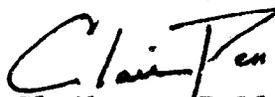
I certainly recognize the problem this exemption creates for Rhode Island's cities and towns, which are already hard-pressed by declining tax revenues and severe cuts in federal programs. The tax exemption is particularly unfair to the Northeast, which is the only region where AMTRAK actually owns its right-of-way. Outside the Northeast Corridor, AMTRAK leases the right-of-way from tax paying private railroads. The Northeast is AMTRAK's strongest revenue base, and should not shoulder the unequal burden of this tax exemption simply because of the happenstance of AMTRAK owning rather than leasing its right-of-way.

I intend to urge the Senate Appropriations Committee to rescind the exemption, except to the extent that AMTRAK property is actually improved with taxpayer subsidies. I will also strongly oppose the inclusion of this exemption in any future AMTRAK legislation.

In my view, a strong national rail passenger network is absolutely essential. The tax exemption, however, is not the right way to help AMTRAK, and adds to the difficult fiscal problems facing our cities and towns. I appreciate learning of your concern with this problem, and will do my best to be of some help to the cities and towns in this issue.

Warm regards.

Ever sincerely

  
Claiborne Pell

FERNAND J. ST GERMAIN  
1ST DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

2108 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
TEL: 202-225-4911

204 JOHN E. FOGARTY BUILDING  
PROVIDENCE, R.I. 02903  
TEL.: 401-528-4323

R.I. TOLL FREE TELEPHONE  
1-800-662-5110

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BANKING, FINANCE AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL  
INSTITUTIONS SUPERVISION,  
REGULATION AND INSURANCE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

March 17, 1982

Ms. Rose M. Mendonca  
City Clerk  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Ms. Mendonca:

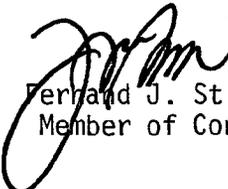
Thank you for writing on behalf of the Providence City Council concerning the recent tax exemption provided to the AMTRAK Corporation.

The amendment which provided the controversial tax break was added to the Department of Transportation's appropriation legislation when this measure was being considered in the United States Senate. It is ironic that at a time when the current Administration is advocating a greater role for local governments that the Senate would pass a provision which will negatively impact on your community's ability to operate efficiently.

For my part, I will certainly do all I can to seek legislative and administrative remedies to the problems we face. I am encouraged to note that both our Rhode Island Senators will jointly seek to reverse the Senate action which is the cause of the current situation.

Please be certain that I am aware of the difficulties which will result from the loss of local tax revenue, and I again thank you for taking the time to make the Council's views known to me.

Sincerely,

  
Fernand J. St Germain  
Member of Congress

FJStG:dMh