

## **SAMPLE LETTER #1**

Dear Editor,

I am writing because I want the Indiana Department of Transportation to support improvements to Amtrak's "Hoosier State" service between Chicago-Indianapolis. INDOT is considering several options for improving the service, including speeding it up to 79 mph and adding more trains.

But one option is missing from INDOT's to-do list: extending the trains just 100 miles to Cincinnati. This would benefit citizens and businesses in the southeastern part of Indiana, too, including the existing station at Connersville. It would also tap the three million residents of the Dayton-Hamilton-Cincinnati region and the 23,000 students of Miami University in Oxford, OH, many of whom come from Chicago and want to make "laundry runs" home on the weekends.

Cincinnati officials are very interested in expanded transportation options to Indianapolis, Lafayette and Chicago, and have begun planning for expanded station facilities to accommodate more trains. Their interest is understandable, as Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky Airport has the second-highest domestic airfares in the nation among the top-100 airports (Anchorage, AK is #1).

Ironically, the Cincinnati-Chicago rail line passes within 4,000 feet of the main terminal of the Indianapolis International Airport whose airfares are right at the 2012 national average of \$374, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. Having fast passenger trains will not only link Indiana and Ohio cities and universities to the Midwest's economic capital of Chicago, they will also link us to global markets and them to us. Let's make it happen!

Sincerely,