

1999 CPTC ANNUAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2. THE COMMISSION COMMENDS AMTRAK AND THE CONNECTICUT SOUTHERN RAILROAD FOR REACHING A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT TO LOWER TRACKAGE FEES ASSESSED BY AMTRAK ON FREIGHT MOVEMENTS OVER ITS SPRINGFIELD LINE, WHICH IS THE DOMINANT FREIGHT GATEWAY INTO CONNECTICUT. WE URGE PROMPT FINALIZATION OF THIS AGREEMENT. WE ALSO ENCOURAGE AMTRAK AND GUILFORD RAIL SYSTEM TO PURSUE A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT FOR THE LATTER'S FREIGHT SHIPMENTS ON THIS LINE.

DEPARTMENT RESPONSE:

The Department also commends the parties for successfully completing negotiations in this matter. The agreement is viewed by the Department as an extremely valuable step in the possible expansion of rail freight services as a means of reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality and fostering economic development.