## Resolution 2024-006 Restoring Daily Passenger Rail Service to Albany County March 5, 2024

Whereas, Albany County enjoyed passenger rail service for nearly one hundred and thirty years until the termination of Amtrak service in 1997; and,

**Whereas**; the Federal Railroad Administration has identified three passenger rail routes in Wyoming, including one along the I-80 corridor through Laramie and Albany County in Southern Wyoming, as "Selected Proposed Preferred Routes" for restored service in its Long-Distance Survey Study; and,

Whereas, public comments on the proposed routes in the Long-Distance Survey Study are due on <u>March 8, 2024</u>; and,

Whereas, a group of Laramie and Albany County residents have been gathering signatures from local individuals and businesses requesting public proclamations and letters of support for the restoration of daily passenger rail service in Laramie and Albany County; and,

Whereas, an online petition to bring passenger rail service to the Wyoming I-80 corridor has gained nearly 2,000 signatures; and,

Whereas, in the last three years, other Wyoming local governments have issued proclamations, resolutions, and letters of support for expanded passenger rail services, and these jurisdictions include: Uinta County Commissioners; City of Rock Springs; Sweetwater County Commissioners; Carbon County Commissioners; Platte County Commissioners; City of Douglas; City of Greybull; Campbell County Commissioners; City of Sundance; Converse County Commissioners; Washakie County Commissioners; City of Sheridan; and, Sheridan County Commissioners; and,

Whereas, restored long-distance and intercity passenger rail service offers the promise of significant positive economic impact for our community; and

Whereas, Long-distance passenger train routes are ideal for connecting major urban areas with each other and with smaller cities and communities—many in rural areas—which are becoming more isolated as intercity bus services disappear; and

Whereas, passenger rail serves a variety of traveler needs including the needs of travelers who cannot drive, prefer not to drive in inclement weather, or otherwise prefer the choice of rail travel;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Albany County Board of County Commissioners:

1. The Albany County, Wyoming Board of County Commissioners support the return of daily passenger rail service to our community and call upon all residents

of Albany County to join us by communicating their support for the return of daily passenger rail service to the Federal Railroad Administration and our state and federal representatives.

Dated this 5th day of March 2024

Albany County Board of County Commissioners

Pete Gosar, Chairman

Terri Jones, Commissioner

Pete Gosar, Chairman

Sue Ibarra, Commissioner

Attest: White, County Clerk Kayla