

From: Searles, Brian [Brian.Searles@vermont.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2016 3:23 PM
To: Cole, Chris
CC: Kunin, Lisa
Subject: Fw: Preclearance Legislation

The emphasis now shifts somewhat to the House, but not giving up on the Senate, of course.

Brian

From: Searles, Brian
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2016 3:13 PM
To: Travis.Krogman@mail.house.gov
Cc: Songhurst, Karen
Subject: Preclearance Legislation

Dear Mr. Krogman:

My name is Brian Searles and I have been engaged by Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin to help restore service to Montreal on the Amtrak train known as *The Vermonter* which currently travels daily between St. Albans, Vermont and Washington, D.C. and includes a stop in Claremont, New Hampshire. As you know, one of the mileposts for the restoration of the Montreal service is the enactment of preclearance enabling legislation in both countries.

First, let me thank you for the work you have already done on behalf of Congresswoman Kuster's bill. We very much appreciate her sponsorship of this vital legislation and I personally want to offer any assistance we might be able to provide to you along the way. We have been working closely with Maggie Gendron in Senator Patrick Leahy's office in an effort to secure the support of northern tier senators for the Senate version of the bill and are still hopeful, despite recent setbacks.

I am working with the staff at the Vermont Agency of Transportation, where I served as Secretary for two different Governors until my retirement at the end of 2014. I know that Secretary Chris Cole and his staff have reached out to many of their colleagues in support of this bill but the emphasis has been on the Senate bill until now. I don't want to do anything without consultation and will await your update and advice on what we might do to be helpful.

You should also be aware that in conjunction with my appointment, Quebec Premier Couillard appointed Raymond Chretien as his emissary to help coordinate efforts between the Quebec and Vermont toward preclearance and rail service restoration. Mr. Chretien is a former

Canadian Ambassador to the United States and has been instrumental with this work on both sides of the border.

My contact information is listed below and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Brian R. Searles
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Vermont Agency of Transportation
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