



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Friends of the Cardinal is pleased to announce that on April 11, West Virginia's Governor, Jim Justice, signed into law legislation which states "It is hereby declared the public policy of the State of West Virginia and the intent of the Legislature to facilitate, advance, and improve the availability of interstate passenger rail service to the state, . . ." The legislation continues to specifically mention the route of Amtrak's train #50-51, The Cardinal, and the need to make the train daily. This legislation was recently passed by both Chambers of the West Virginia Legislature by overwhelming bi-partisan margins.

The Tourism Commission, an agency of the West Virginia Department of Commerce, is authorized to coordinate and cooperate with various political subdivisions in West Virginia, other states along the Cardinal route, and with the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, to form an "interstate committee."

Upon hearing that the bill was signed into law, Chuck Riecks, Co-Chair of the Friends of the Cardinal said: "The prompt enactment of this law is a tribute to the dedication and concern of many West Virginians."

Jim Mathews the CEO of the National Association of Railroad Passengers reaction was: "Congratulations to the travelers of West Virginia who have stood up for their passenger trains and made themselves heard! Let's hope that other states along the Cardinal's route can follow West Virginia's leadership on this issue and move ahead."

And as Peter LeCody the Chair of the National Association of Railroad Passengers observed : "Now the work begins."