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The Senate
STATE OF IOWA
Seventy-ninth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

COMMITTEES

Rules & Administration, *Chair*

Marion C. Blakcy
Chairman
National Transportation Safety Board
490 L'Enfang Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20594

Dear Chairman Blakey:

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Romstad and the people of Iowa to respectfully request that the National Transportation Safety Board conduct a public hearing concerning the circumstances surrounding the derailment of the Amtrak California Zephyr near Nodaway, Iowa on March 17, 2001.

Based upon information that has been provided to me, it appears that the derailment on March 17, 2001 was the result of a metallurgical defect from a manufacturing process. May I respectfully request that at the hearing sworn testimony be taken from the raw material manufacturer, the forger and track owner as to what procedures were put in place to inspect and test for metallurgical defects, and how in the future defective track can be identified before dangerous derailments occur. I know the National Transportation Safety Board has the responsibility of investigating and determining the cause of derailments and making recommendations, and I believe a public hearing would be very helpful in the Board's carrying out its responsibilities. Thank you for taking my request into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stewart Iverson Jr.".

Stewart Iverson, Jr.
Senate Majority Leader

cc: Charlie B. Romstad