

WILMINGTON, N.C., *October 25, 1967.*

Congressman HARLEY O. STAGGERS,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN STAGGERS: I am writing to you as chairman of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee in the hope that you will give my thoughts some consideration. I would like to say first of all that I am not employed by any railroad and am not a member of any Union.

For some years now, I have watched with a great deal of sadness the decline in the number of passenger trains operating in this country. In recent years I have taken a closer look, and am shocked by what I have found. Recent events here in my home town of Wilmington brought me to this latest conclusion. Twelve years ago there were eight passenger trains serving Wilmington. Today there are two, and the Seaboard Coast Line has a petition before the ICC to discontinue them. The railroad has done it's best to make them a losing proposition so that they could be eliminated.

The truth is that the railroads could provide the finest transportation possible for the citizens of our nation, but under present law they will undoubtedly eliminate the remaining trains within about two years. I think this situation is serious enough to warrant your committee's holding a hearing to get the facts, and see what can be done. It is apparent that if in the future we are to have an adequate transportation system in the United States things like this are going to have to be stopped, and we are going to have to replace some trains which have been discontinued.

I am enclosing a letter which I received from Mr. A. S. Lang, Federal Railroad Administrator, and also some copies of letters I have written locally about passenger train service. I will appreciate your consideration of my ideas. All that I ask is that I be heard.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES B. PEGRAM.

(Whereupon, at 12:30 p.m., the committee adjourned.)

