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## MEDIA STATEMENT

Nov. 5, 2015

Amtrak and Metra share the EPA's interest in the quality of the air at Union Station, and we thank the EPA for its work on this important issue. We have asked EPA for the sampling data in order to have a baseline with which to measure ongoing improvements, and renew our request so that we may assess the data.

Prior to EPA's recent research, both railroads had already taken steps to reduce emissions and improve the air quality at Chicago Union Station, and will continue to do so.

Amtrak has changed the following procedures: moving trains from the station to the yard facilities faster to reduce diesel engine idling time; more frequent switching from diesel locomotives to draw power from the station; installation of automatic engine start and stop controls; and the purchase of two low-emissions switching locomotives from an Illinois vendor. For several years we have used MERV-rated fresh air filters in railcars and Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel fuel on our trains. Amtrak is also currently replacing the 25-year-old automatic door systems to the train platforms and elsewhere, which we anticipate will reduce fumes in the station while better managing the temperatures at the Concourse Level.

Metra has also voluntarily made important changes to its operations in an effort to improve air quality at Union Station, including plugging trains into stand-by power to limit idling of locomotives; implementing an ongoing initiative resulting in the installation of automatic stop-start technology on more than half its fleet so far; using high-efficiency filters; and switching to ultra-low sulfur fuel.

The EPA's research shows the air quality on track platforms falls within acceptable legal standards. However, as discussed above, neither Amtrak nor Metra remain complacent, and continue to work together to focus on additional improvements. We are also committed to working with other station shareholders and stakeholders to improve the air quality. Further, we are pleased to partner with the City of Chicago and the RTA on renovations to Union Station that will enhance air quality management. Working together, we remain committed to securing funding needed to move this nationally significant renovation project forward.

Again, we thank the EPA for its work.

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