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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/18/13

SPONSOR Wirth LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE AMTRAK, In Recognition SM 3

ANALYST Cerny

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
Minimal		Nonrecurring	

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HM2

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Transportation (DOT)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 3 resolves that the New Mexico congressional delegation and the governor be called upon to support the continued viability of Amtrak's Southwest Chief train service, which may be under threat. It is estimated that more than 112,000 passengers made use of this service in federal fiscal year 2012, boarding and alighting at Albuquerque, Lamy, Las Vegas and Raton, providing transportation for state residents and tourists, supporting the state and local economies through the purchase of goods and services, and property tax revenues.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Minor costs will be incurred in notifying recipients.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Letters seeking Amtrak's and BNSF railway's continuance of the Southwest Chief service were sent last year by New Mexico DOT as well as the DOTs in Colorado and Kansas. These letters indicated that no state funding was available for this purpose and that Congress is responsible for interstate Amtrak service.

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According to a news report in the August 31, 2012 Santa Fe New Mexican, Amtrak has requested that New Mexico, Colorado and Kansas spend a combined \$100 million over the next decade to repair and improve the BNSF-owned tracks on which the passenger trains runs in Kansas. Amtrak officials have warned that if a solution is not found by 2014, it would move the Southwest Chief route south, through Oklahoma and Texas, bypassing such historic stops as Lamy and others in northern New Mexico. The current route agreement between Amtrak and BNSF ends in 2016.

A joint resolution on this issue was passed by both houses of the Colorado Legislature in May 2012.

CC/svb