



Office of Congressman Jeff Flake

## *News Release*

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# **Congressman Flake Urges Congress To Turn Over Amtrak to Private Sector**

*Amtrak Chief Says It Needs \$10 Billion From Federal  
Government to Continue to Operate*

**Mesa, Arizona** - Congressman Jeff Flake, who represents the state's Sixth District, today urged his colleagues to privatize Amtrak.

Amtrak president David Gunn spoke before a conference of mayors yesterday and stated that Amtrak would need \$10 billion over the next five years to continue to operate.

**"If there is a market for Amtrak, it shouldn't have any problems on its own. Of course, it's going to have to incorporate some new ideas, such as efficiency and commonsense,"** said Flake.

**"By writing a check to Amtrak whenever it needs it, Congress is eliminating any incentive they have to try to become self-sufficient. I've always believed that businessmen do a much better job of running a business than bureaucrats do. The time has come to turn Amtrak over to the private sector."**

Amtrak has never turned a profit and receives an average of \$1.2 billion a year from the federal government.

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