

Amtrak another failing monopoly

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In a recent editorial, your attempt to blame Congressional Republicans for the Amtrak crash doesn't wash ("A Congress off the rails," May 15).

The legislation creating the national passenger train service "dedicated to providing modern, efficient, attractive service," began operating on May 1, 1971. The expectations failed to materialize. That law just created one more money-losing government monopoly that doesn't work very well. That is to be expected from monopolies. The term "government" is a synonym for "waste, fraud and abuse."

Ridership has increased about 50 percent since 2000, as you reported. But Amtrak operating costs went up more than 300 percent during the same period, according to figures from The Cato Institute. The editorial didn't report that. With enough taxpayer money, Congress could still operate the Pony Express. Politics can do stuff like that.

Politics is a wasteful allocator of limited resources. This explains why the country would be bankrupt if our central bank didn't print money to fund failed government programs. How much more should be taxed, borrowed and printed to subsidize Amtrak failures?

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