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Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have signed H.R. 15427, the Amtrak Improvement Act of 1974. However, I believe that one provision of this act is undesirable. I refer to the section which requires mandatory customs inspection aboard trains operated in the international intercity rail passenger service.

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This provision would adversely affect the interdiction of the flow of narcotics and other contraband at ports of entry. On-board customs inspection is inconsistent with effective enforcement of customs laws and not always practical. There must be flexibility in determining when and where on-board inspection is to be conducted. Moreover, the requirement for on-board inspection on trains could result in requests for similar treatment aboard airlines and ocean vessels.

I request that the Congress take action to revise the provision to provide for customs inspection consistent with the effective enforcement of the customs and related laws.

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