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| **Congressional Committee Slated To Hold Hearing On Amtrak**  The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, led by chairman John Mica (R-FL), will hold a full committee oversight [hearing](http://transportation.house.gov/hearings/hearingdetail.aspx?NewsID=1716) on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 entitled, “The High Cost of Amtrak's Monopoly Mentality in Commuter Rail Competitions.” The hearing represents the second part of a hearing originally held on August 2, 2012 that was entitled, “A Review of Amtrak Operations, Part I: Mismanagement of Food & Beverage Services.” Chairman Mica and several of his colleagues on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee have been highly critical of Amtrak’s operations, especially the food service provided by the rail provider. Specifically, Chairman Mica has shared that Amtrak has lost $833 million over the last ten years in its “inefficient and wasteful food and beverage service.” The hearing critical of Amtrak is consistent with the Republican Platform that was adopted last month which called for the elimination of federal funding for intercity rail service and high speed rail lines. Specifically, the platform stated, “Amtrak continues to be, for the taxpayers, an extremely expensive railroad. The public has to subsidize every ticket nearly $50. It is long past time for the federal government to get out of way and allow private ventures to provide passenger service to the northeast corridor. The same holds true with regard to high-speed and intercity rail across the country. Amtrak continues to be, for the taxpayers, an extremely expensive railroad. The public has to subsidize every ticket nearly $50. It is long past time for the federal government to get out of way and allow private ventures to provide passenger service to the northeast corridor. The same holds true with regard to high-speed and intercity rail across the country.”  <http://transportation.house.gov/hearings/hearingdetail.aspx?NewsID=1716> |
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