



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
RAILROAD PASSENGERS**

TRAINS: A TRAVEL CHOICE AMERICANS WANT

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Statement by NARP Executive Director Ross B. Capon On New Energy Data from Oak Ridge

For Immediate Release

Washington, D.C., June 26, 2007— The National Association of Railroad Passengers welcomes the release this week of Oak Ridge National Laboratory's newest data on national energy consumption, which show that Amtrak continues to be more energy efficient than either airlines or automobiles.

The data show that domestic airlines on average consume one fifth (20.5%) more energy per passenger-mile than Amtrak, while cars consume over one quarter (27%) more than Amtrak. Looked at the other way around, Amtrak uses 17% and 21% less energy per passenger-mile than airlines and cars, respectively.

The figures are even more encouraging when additional factors are considered, such as the tendency of rail to stimulate pedestrian and transit-friendly development, the fact that short distance flights are less energy-efficient than aviation's national average, and studies indicating that fossil fuel emissions at higher altitudes cause twice the warming effect on climate as those emitted at ground level.

Oak Ridge reported the following energy efficiency measures, stated in British Thermal Units (BTUs) per passenger mile--the lower the number, the greater the efficiency. One passenger mile is one passenger traveling one mile.

- Amtrak: 2,709
- Commuter rail: 2,743
- Rail transit: 2,784
- Certificated air carriers: 3,264 (excludes international services)
- Cars: 3,445

The Oak Ridge study, which is Edition 26 of its annual Transportation Energy Data Book (published under contract to the U.S. Department of Energy), is [in pdf on ORNL's website](#); click on "Edition 26 download page." See especially chapter 2 (tables 2.13 and 2.14 on pages 2-15 and 2-16).

NARP's discussion of the new data [can be found on our website](#).

**Our Mission: A modern, customer-focused national passenger
train network that provides a travel choice Americans want**

Note: The new data currently is available only in pdf; Oak Ridge has yet to update Excel spreadsheets, whose previous (Edition 25) versions [are still on ORNL's website](#) (click on the chapters to the left).

About NARP

NARP is the largest national membership advocacy organization for train and rail transit passengers. We have worked since 1967 to expand the quality and quantity of passenger rail in the U.S. Our mission is to work towards a modern, customer-focused national passenger train network that provides a travel choice Americans want. Our work is supported by over 23,000 individual members.