



HR0320

LRB101 12117 ALS 59685 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois has long been the hub of freight rail in  
3 the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, The seven private railroads bring 12,000 jobs with  
5 an average wage and benefits package of \$125,000 a year per  
6 railroad employee to Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, Rail in Illinois moves the crops that farmers  
8 grow, the fuel required for electricity, and the goods  
9 consumers demand every day; and

10 WHEREAS, Without freight rail in Illinois, 26.8 million  
11 more trucks would have been on the road in 2017; and

12 WHEREAS, Freight railroads are the most environmentally  
13 friendly way to move large amounts of freight, as a single  
14 gallon of fuel is able to transport a ton of freight nearly 500  
15 miles; and

16 WHEREAS, Freight railroads in Illinois pay for their own  
17 infrastructure and do not rely on support from the State to  
18 maintain the 5,700 plus miles of track they own and operate;  
19 and

1           WHEREAS, In 2019, freight railroads will spend over \$600  
2 million on their infrastructure in Illinois and \$25 billion  
3 across the entire country; and

4           WHEREAS, Freight railroads pay a number of taxes to State  
5 and local governments in Illinois, including property tax,  
6 income tax, sales/use tax, fuel tax, franchise tax, fuel excise  
7 tax, and other regulatory fees, collectively contributing over  
8 a quarter of a billion dollars to State and local government  
9 each year; and

10           WHEREAS, Recently, the freight railroads partnered with  
11 public agencies to pursue a successful \$132 million INFRA grant  
12 from the United States Department of Transportation for CREATE,  
13 a model for public private partnerships in the United States,  
14 which was matched by \$111 million from the State of Illinois  
15 and \$116 million from the freight railroads collectively;  
16 therefore, be it

17           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
18 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
19 we recognize Illinois railroads on the 150th anniversary of the  
20 connection of the east and west railroads, represented by the  
21 "golden spike" planted in Promontory, Utah on May 10, 1869.