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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The proposed Quad Cities passenger rail route, running between Chicago and downtown Moline, was initially slated to begin service in 2014; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Richard J. Durbin secured \$177 million in federal funding for the project in 2010; and

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WHEREAS, Governor JB Pritzker renewed the state's commitment to the project by providing \$225 million in state funding in 2019; and

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WHEREAS, As of 2023, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Iowa Interstate Railroad have failed to reach an agreement on the infrastructure upgrades needed for the project; and

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WHEREAS, The passenger rail project is projected to have a \$25 million annual economic impact once service begins and to bring up to 825 permanent jobs to the Quad City region; and

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WHEREAS, The Mayor of the City of Moline, the State Senator of the 36th District, and the State Representative of the 72nd District in Illinois have urged Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Transportation to request the

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1 National Surface Transportation Board get involved to bring
2 all parties to the table; and

3 WHEREAS, The Surface Transportation Board has the
4 authority to compel both IDOT and the Iowa Interstate Railroad
5 to hold a good faith meeting on the proposed project; and

6 WHEREAS, After years of unnecessary delays, the last
7 remaining hurdle to construction is an agreement between IDOT
8 and the Iowa Interstate Railroad on the upgrades needed to
9 convert the Iowa Interstate Railroad's existing freight tracks
10 for passenger service; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2019, a five-year extension of the project's
12 federal funding from the Federal Railroad Administration was
13 made to provide ample time for IDOT and the Iowa Interstate
14 Railroad to enter an agreement and for construction to begin
15 on the project; and

16 WHEREAS, The Iowa Interstate Railroad continues to hold
17 the Quad Cities community and its passenger rail advocates
18 hostage in an egregious attempt to extract hundreds of
19 millions of additional taxpayer dollars to improve their
20 privately owned infrastructure while currently transporting
21 potentially harmful chemicals and materials on that very
22 infrastructure, which goes against the interests of the State

1 of Illinois; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge Governor JB
4 Pritzker and IDOT to make a formal request to the National
5 Surface Transportation Board to compel the Iowa Interstate
6 Railroad to enter into an agreement on the Quad Cities
7 passenger rail project.