

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In order to ensure the safety, quality,
3 reliability, and efficiency of our country's vital
4 transportation network and to preserve our national defense,
5 America needs a balanced, integrated transportation system
6 and the American people need diverse transportation choices;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Passenger rail is a critical component of a
9 modern multi-modal transportation system and needs to have
10 financial support, unified policy development, and oversight
11 similar to that afforded to our air, highway, and mass
12 transit modes, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
15 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge Congress and the
16 President of the United States to fully institute the
17 following passenger rail components, which are critical to
18 the future of passenger rail in the United States, within the
19 upcoming reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for
20 the 21st Century (TEA 21) or Amtrak Reauthorization
21 legislation:

22 1. Establish a dedicated, multi-year federal capital
23 funding program for intercity passenger rail, patterned
24 after the existing federal highway, airport, and mass
25 transit programs.

26 2. Establish, as federal policy, a preserved and
27 improved national passenger rail system - a nationwide,
28 interconnected passenger rail system that stimulates
29 higher levels of efficiency, innovation, and
30 responsiveness. Direct the Federal Railroad
31 Administration, or another agency within the U.S.
32 Department of Transportation, to - with state and local
33 input - develop, fund, and oversee this federal policy.

1 3. Provide full federal funding of Amtrak to
2 maintain the national network during the period that the
3 new federal plans and policies are being developed. Then,
4 fully fund implementation of the national passenger rail
5 system - with its new efficiencies, innovation, and
6 responsiveness - in subsequent years; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
8 delivered to the president pro tempore of the U.S. Senate,
9 the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and each
10 member of the Illinois congressional delegation.