



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane,  
3 McHenry, Lake and Will host one of the largest and most  
4 technical train switching systems in the United States of  
5 America; and

6 WHEREAS, These counties have greatly benefited from the  
7 partnership of the federal and State government in providing  
8 train access across our State and nation; and

9 WHEREAS, As the number of trains that ran through this  
10 6-county region increased, the number of train whistles that  
11 sounded from both commuter and commercial locomotives  
12 increased as well; and

13 WHEREAS, Both the federal and State governments have issued  
14 rules and regulations governing the utilization of a train's  
15 whistle as it proceeds through gated railroad crossings and  
16 travels to its destination; and

17 WHEREAS, The quality of life of those who live within the  
18 Counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, McHenry, Lake and Will is  
19 affected daily by the proliferation of train whistles that blow  
20 throughout their communities; and

21 WHEREAS, On December 18, 2003, the Federal Railroad  
22 Administration of the United States Department of  
23 Transportation proposed final rules printed in the Federal  
24 Register, 49 CFR Parts 222 and 229, to require a commuter or  
25 commercial locomotive to sound its horn when it approaches and  
26 enters a public highway-rail crossing; and

27 WHEREAS, This complex proposed rule may cause communities  
28 through which locomotives travel to experience an increase in  
29 the number of train whistles that are sounded daily; and

1           WHEREAS, This proposal by the Federal Railroad  
2 Administration of the United States Department of  
3 Transportation may be detrimental to the quality of life of  
4 those who live near a train-crossing without additional input  
5 from local mayors and village managers; and

6           WHEREAS, The comment period for input into these proposed  
7 final rules expires on February 17, 2004; and

8           WHEREAS, The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert and The Honorable  
9 William O. Lipinski have requested an extension of the comment  
10 period in order for the Federal Railroad Administration to hold  
11 a public hearing in the City of Chicago on the proposed final  
12 rules governing train whistles; 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 do formally request that the  
16 time period designated for public comment be extended by 60  
17 days to provide additional time for local units of government  
18 to submit input to the Federal Railroad Administration on the  
19 proposed final rules governing train whistles; and be it  
20 further

21           RESOLVED, That we formally request the Federal Railroad  
22 Administration to schedule a public hearing in the City of  
23 Chicago to receive testimony from local public officials, units  
24 of local government and those who live or work within the  
25 Counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, McHenry, Lake and Will on the  
26 proposed train whistle rules within this 60-day extension of  
27 time for public comment; and

28           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
29 immediately delivered to Norman Mineta, Secretary of the United  
30 States Department of Transportation; The Honorable J. Dennis

1 Hastert, the United States Speaker of the House; The Honorable  
2 William O. Lipinski, United States Congressman from the Third  
3 Congressional District of the State of Illinois and Ranking  
4 Member of the United States House of Representatives Committee  
5 on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways,  
6 Transit and Pipelines; and Allan Rutter, Administrator for the  
7 Federal Railroad Administration.