

1 HOUSE 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, that
15 we urge Congress and the President of the United States to
16 fully institute the following passenger rail components,
17 which are critical to the future of passenger rail in the
18 United States, within the upcoming reauthorization of the
19 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) or
20 Amtrak Reauthorization legislation:

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

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

33 3. Provide full federal funding of Amtrak to

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

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