

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is one of the most  
3 congested in the country; and

4 WHEREAS, Illinois' statewide population is projected to  
5 increase 9.2% by 2020 and the State's already strained  
6 transportation infrastructure cannot accommodate that  
7 population and ensuing economic growth; and

8 WHEREAS, Passenger rail provides an efficient, safe, and  
9 environmentally sound means of transportation for commuters  
10 and for business and leisure travelers; and

11 WHEREAS, Amtrak and the State of Illinois have developed  
12 a partnership that should serve as a model for similar  
13 corridors in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, Illinois' four state-supported corridors  
15 operated by Amtrak (Chicago-St. Louis, Chicago-Quincy,  
16 Chicago-Carbondale, Chicago-Milwaukee) each experienced  
17 strong ridership gains in Fiscal Year 2003, despite a  
18 weakened economy and travel market; and

19 WHEREAS, Amtrak carried more than 2,600,000 passengers a  
20 year to and from Illinois; and

21 WHEREAS, Amtrak expended more than \$38 million for goods  
22 and services in Illinois in Fiscal Year 2002; and

23 WHEREAS, Amtrak employs nearly 2,300 Illinois residents,  
24 who earned a combined total of more than \$70 million in  
25 calendar year 2002; and

26 WHEREAS, Amtrak, the Illinois Department of  
27 Transportation, the Federal Railroad Administration, and  
28 Union Pacific Railroad are jointly working to develop High  
29 Speed Rail service on the Chicago-St. Louis corridor; and

1           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has already invested \$100  
2 million in the Chicago-St. Louis High Speed Rail program; and

3           WHEREAS, Congress has introduced several measures  
4 intended to provide states with a dedicated source of funding  
5 to develop viable, safe, and efficient passenger rail  
6 networks, including the National Defense Rail Act, RIDE-21,  
7 the Emergency Anti-Recession Act of 2003, and the National  
8 Infrastructure Program Act of 2003; therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
10 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
11 we hereby endorse Amtrak's 2004 funding request for \$1.812  
12 billion and 5-year plan, as well as federal legislation that  
13 provides states with a dedicated source of funding to develop  
14 rail corridors; and we further urge the United States  
15 Congress to pass and the President of the United States to  
16 sign this legislation; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That we urgently request that all members of  
18 Congress who represent the State of Illinois cosponsor and  
19 support passage of legislative measures intended to bring  
20 stability to the nation's rail passenger network and provide  
21 states the funding needed to develop successful rail  
22 corridors; and be it further

23           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
24 presented to the President of the United States, the Vice  
25 President of the United States, to the Majority Leaders of  
26 the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and to  
27 each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.