



HR1232

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, On May 10, 1869, the "golden spike" was driven  
3 into the final tie at Promontory Summit, Utah to join the  
4 Central Pacific and the Union Pacific Railroads, ceremonially  
5 completing the first transcontinental railroad and therefore  
6 connecting both coasts of the United States; and

7           WHEREAS, Today, Illinois and Chicago are the railroad  
8 capitals of the United States and Chicago Union Station is the  
9 fourth busiest Amtrak station in the country, with almost 3  
10 million passengers annually; and

11           WHEREAS, Illinois was one of the first States to enter into  
12 a partnership with Amtrak for the operation of a passenger  
13 train, the daily Illinois Zephyr, which has served the  
14 communities of Quincy, Macomb, Galesburg, Kewanee, Princeton,  
15 Mendota, Plano, LaGrange, and Chicago, since November 4, 1971;  
16 and

17           WHEREAS, Illinois has continued to show its commitment to a  
18 viable passenger rail network, providing support so residents  
19 and visitors have Amtrak trains to and from metro areas,  
20 mid-sized cities, and small towns, helping to reduce congestion  
21 on roads and in the skies; and

1           WHEREAS, For many rural Americans, Amtrak represents the  
2           only major intercity transportation link to the rest of the  
3           country; and

4           WHEREAS, Passenger rail provides a more fuel-efficient  
5           transportation system, thereby providing cleaner  
6           transportation alternatives and energy security; when combined  
7           with all modes of transportation, passenger railroads emit only  
8           0.2 percent of the travel industry's total greenhouse gases;  
9           and

10          WHEREAS, Amtrak annually provides intercity passenger rail  
11          travel to over 25 million Americans residing in 46 states; and

12          WHEREAS, An increasing number of people are using trains  
13          for travel purposes beyond commuting to and from work; in the  
14          State of Illinois, 3,888,577 people made use of Amtrak trains  
15          in 2007; and

16          WHEREAS, Rail passenger service in the State of Illinois is  
17          a source of pride, a gateway for many into our State, and a  
18          tool for economic growth; therefore, be it

19          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
20          NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21          the State of Illinois endorses National Train Day on May 10,

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