



HR0589

LRB097 14076 HEP 58736 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Amtrak Illinois service has been an excellent
3 investment in mobility for Illinois' economy for more than 30
4 years; and

5 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has for decades been a
6 partner of Amtrak, the National Railroad Passenger
7 Corporation, in financing additional service in Illinois
8 beyond the national network of long-distance passenger trains;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois has enjoyed a bipartisan, statewide
11 consensus on the value of passenger train service to link the
12 State's universities, smaller communities, suburbs, and
13 Chicago; and

14 WHEREAS, With ever-increasing traffic on the State's
15 highways, especially in the Chicago area, investing in
16 passenger rail to alleviate automobile traffic is a prudent use
17 of taxpayer dollars; and

18 WHEREAS, A robust passenger train system is an essential
19 component of national security in the event of a mass
20 evacuation, as demonstrated by the aftermath of the September
21 11 attacks and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina; and

1 WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly in 2006 doubled its
2 commitment to Amtrak Illinois service, setting the nation on a
3 path for growth in passenger rail, and has reaped doubled
4 ridership on almost all routes in the State, sparking real
5 estate development around train stations and frequently
6 selling out trains; and

7 WHEREAS, An essential tool for rural economic development
8 is passenger trains connecting small towns to the economic
9 engines of large cities and universities; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States House of Representatives passed
11 a budget bill that precludes the use of any federal dollars for
12 State-supported Amtrak routes such as the Lincoln Service, the
13 Illini, the Saluki, the Carl Sandburg, and the Hiawatha; and

14 WHEREAS, The provision in the House budget bill would
15 essentially eliminate most Amtrak service in Illinois,
16 stranding almost 2 million annual passengers; and

17 WHEREAS, The House budget bill woefully underfunds Amtrak
18 and the high speed rail program; and

19 WHEREAS, In light of Illinois' continued robust capital and
20 operating investment in Amtrak and high speed rail, it is

1 particularly shortsighted for the federal government to
2 eliminate or cut back its investment in passenger rail;
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we urge the United States Congress to fully fund Amtrak and the
7 high speed rail program; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Congress to
9 eliminate any provision that would reduce the federal
10 investment in State-supported Amtrak service, as this
11 partnership is a model to be emulated, not discouraged; and be
12 it further

13 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be presented to
14 Senators Dick Durbin, Mark Kirk and the entire congressional
15 delegation of the State of Illinois.