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Resolution in Support of Increased Rail Capacity

Whereas, federal transportation officials and others project that United States freight volumes will increase by almost 90 percent over the next 25 years;

Whereas, the American Public Transit Association announced recently that transit ridership was at a 52 year high;

Whereas, the nation's highways are already stretched to capacity;

Whereas, the efficient movement of goods and people are directly related to the strength of a nation's economy and its citizens' quality of life;

Whereas, public policies promoting increased investment in rail infrastructure would result in increased rail capacity for both passenger and freight services;

Whereas, expansion of rail capacity would yield impressive public benefits by relieving worsening congestion, reducing highway costs, providing a critical intermodal link to international trade, and improving air quality and fuel efficiency;

Whereas, relatively modest public investments in rail infrastructure would yield impressive returns on investment in savings to motorists, businesses, and taxpayers;

Whereas, bi-partisan legislation was recently introduced in Congress that would create tax incentives to increase investment in rail infrastructure (H.R.1806);


Whereas, this legislation is the type of proposal that the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials says is needed to accommodate increasing passenger and freight volumes and realize the public benefits that come from moving more passengers and freight by rail; and

Whereas, Congress is considering changes in the law that would undermine the balanced regulation established under the Staggers Act and potentially constrict rail transportation in this country;

Therefore, Be It Resolved WaysSouth supports building a stronger economy, reducing highway congestion, improving air quality, using tax dollars more efficiently, and improving quality of life by advocating for increased use of rail transportation ; and

Be It Further Resolved WaysSouth endorses federal investment tax incentives to increase rail capacity for both passenger and freight services; and supports balanced rail regulation where shipper and passenger concerns are addressed and railroads are allowed to thrive.

Adopted this 22nd day of January, 2010,



Jim Grode, Executive Director
WaysSouth