

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5016

By Representatives McClure, Aday, Cook, DiVita, Dreher, Faber, Flora, Freeborn, Gilbert, Grant, Horst, Howell, Krehbiel, Larkin, Levinson, P. Long, McKinney, Merrick, Judy Morrison, Myers, Osborne, Ostmeyer, Pauls, E. Peterson, Phelps, Stone, Swenson, Thimesch, Toelkes, Toplikar and D. Williams

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION requesting the Surface Transportation Board to declare a moratorium on all rail abandonments in Kansas until a rural transportation policy can be initiated and the feasibility of establishing port authorities can be determined.

WHEREAS, Between 1989 and 1999, over 1,900 miles of rail have been abandoned in Kansas and currently there are 395 miles of rail scheduled for abandonment; and

WHEREAS, To remain competitive in a global market, agricultural products must be transported in the most cost-effective manner and rail transportation remains an important part of such a system; and

WHEREAS, When a portion of such transportation system is constrained, such as rail abandonment, costs rise, markets are impacted and potential trade benefits are lost; and

WHEREAS, When rail lines are abandoned, Kansas counties lose the valuation of a tangible asset, which could lead to increased mill levies; and

WHEREAS, The abandonment of rail lines will lead to increased motor vehicle traffic which will contribute to the premature deterioration of our state's highways and bridges, and the increased traffic will also lead to the degradation of the air and water quality in the state: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein: That the Surface Transportation Board be requested to declare a moratorium on all rail abandonments in Kansas until a rural transportation policy can be formulated by the state of Kansas and the feasibility of establishing port authorities can be determined; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send enrolled copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, Vice-President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, the Surface Transportation Board, the

1 Governor of the State of Kansas and each member of the Kansas Con-
2 gressional Delegation.
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