

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 1624

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION designating the former Union Pacific Railroad station in Topeka, which is being transformed into the Great Overland Station, as a state railroad museum of Kansas.

WHEREAS, The State of Kansas has a rich railroad heritage which includes the birth and growth of the Santa Fe Railway, participation in the Union Pacific's effort to build the first transcontinental railroad, and the site of important rail lines for the Missouri Pacific, Rock Island, Missouri Kansas Texas (KATY) and other railroad companies; and

WHEREAS, The railroads were instrumental in the development of our state, especially in recruiting many of the first settlers to Kansas. Those settlers established agriculture as a primary industry in Kansas and brought with them the red winter wheat which historically has been a mainstay of our economy. The railroads created thousands of jobs in Kansas, and they remain a major source of employment in our state. The story of the railroads' contributions to the development of our state has been largely untold, and many of today's generation have little knowledge or appreciation of the railroads importance in our history; and

WHEREAS, Topeka's Union Pacific Station opened on January 27, 1927, an historic and celebratory event for the community. Designed by renowned architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood, the beautiful Union Pacific passenger station was reported to be "one of the finest passenger stations on the line" when it opened. The Union Pacific Railroad Station in Topeka, now known as the Great Overland Station, is listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places and has been nominated for listing on the National Historic Register. The station stands as a symbol of an extraordinary era in America's history, a period of great industrial and cultural expansion which mirrored the optimism and hope of the American people. It served as the hub for transportation and industry, and the activities of the community passed through this station; and

WHEREAS, Transformed into the Great Overland Station, the once-proud building will become the symbol of a new era of vitality and vision. The historic site contains stories of our early history, stories of the Kaw Indians, French-Canadian traders, Oregon Trail pioneers, Underground Railroad freedom seekers, rowdy frontier characters and hometown hero Charles Curtis. Connecting that history with railroad heritage represented at the station will provide visitors with a knowledge and appreciation of the deep and colorful roots of our state and validate the contributions of the many individuals from all ethnic and social backgrounds who came together to create our State; and

WHEREAS, The legacy of railroads in Kansas will be enhanced by the renovation of this historic station: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Representatives concurring therein:* That the Great Overland Station in Topeka is hereby designated as a state railroad museum of Kansas; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Richard Davidson, Chairman, Union Pacific Railroad Company, 1416 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68179; John Glassman, Executive Director, Great Overland Station, 701 North Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66609; Harry “Butch” Felker, Mayor, City of Topeka, 215 Southeast 7th Street, Topeka, Kansas 66603; Ramon Powers, Executive Director, Kansas Historical Society, 6425 Southwest 6th Street, Topeka, Kansas 66615; and Beth Fager, Campaign Director, Great Overland Station, 3320 Southwest Spring Creek Place, Topeka, Kansas 66614.

I hereby certify that the above CONCURRENT RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and adopted by that body

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SENATE concurred in  
HOUSE amendments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*President of the Senate.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Secretary of the Senate.*

Adopted by the HOUSE  
as amended \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Speaker of the House.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief Clerk of the House.*