

## House Concurrent Resolution No. 5014

By Representatives Finney, Burroughs, Davis, DeGraaf, Hermanson,  
Hill, Long, Sloan, Talia, Trimmer and Ward

3-16

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10 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the Kansas department  
11 of transportation, the Oklahoma department of transportation, the  
12 Texas department of transportation and Amtrak for their work in pre-  
13 paring an Amtrak, Kansas City - Wichita - Oklahoma City - Fort Worth  
14 Passenger Rail Feasibility Report and Study Scope and urging the Kan-  
15 sas department of transportation to apply for federal funding.  
16

17 WHEREAS, The State of Kansas appropriated \$200,000 in 2008 for  
18 a National Railroad Passenger Corporation (hereafter referenced as Am-  
19 trak) passenger rail feasibility study; and

20 WHEREAS, Amtrak began work on the feasibility study in December  
21 2008; and

22 WHEREAS, Kansas is developing its 10-year comprehensive trans-  
23 portation plan; and

24 WHEREAS, A framework for the Kansas 10-year comprehensive  
25 transportation plan is expected to be approved during the 2009 Kansas  
26 legislative session; and

27 WHEREAS, Federal funding for passenger rail projects is now avail-  
28 able through the federal Rail Safety Improvement Act; and

29 WHEREAS, \$1.9 billion will be appropriated during the federal FY  
30 2009 through the FY 2013 for state matching capital grants not to exceed  
31 80 percent federal contribution; and

32 WHEREAS, A state passenger rail plan is required to be eligible for  
33 these federal matching programs; and

34 WHEREAS, The State of Kansas has yet to develop a qualifying pas-  
35 senger rail plan; and

36 WHEREAS, Energy price volatility is expected to continue for the  
37 foreseeable future; and

38 WHEREAS, Passenger rail provides a fuel efficient mode of trans-  
39 portation for Kansas residents, business travelers and tourists; and

40 WHEREAS, The Texas and Oklahoma Heartland Flyer passenger  
41 train, as operated by Amtrak, is annually one of the highest rated Amtrak  
42 passenger trains nationally in customer satisfaction; and

43 WHEREAS, Economic development generated by after-the-fare box-

1 revenues are important for the safety, quality of life, stabilization of local  
2 government tax bases, out-of-state tourism and visitation with associated  
3 revenues and tax collections and economic health of Kansas communities;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Underutilized or abandoned railroad stations will benefit  
6 from the financial investment provided under federal grants and further  
7 enhance the economic opportunity and redevelopment and revitalization  
8 of main street and rural communities; and

9 WHEREAS, The city councils and governing bodies of 33 cities and  
10 four county governments in Kansas have submitted resolutions of support  
11 for intercity passenger rail to the Kansas governor and department of  
12 transportation; and

13 WHEREAS, The city councils and governing bodies of eight city coun-  
14 cils in Northern Oklahoma as well as the cities of Denton, Gainesville  
15 and Krum, Texas have likewise issued similar resolutions; and

16 WHEREAS, The mayors of Ponca City, Perry, Guthrie, Edmond,  
17 Oklahoma City, Norman, Purcell and Ardmore in Oklahoma signed a  
18 letter of emergency seeking Amtrak expansion through to Kansas City:  
19 Now, therefore,

20 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,*  
21 *the Senate concurring therein:* That we recognize the Kansas depart-  
22 ment of transportation, the Oklahoma department of transportation, the  
23 Texas department of transportation and Amtrak for their work in prepar-  
24 ing an Amtrak feasibility study; and

25 *Be it further resolved:* That the Kansas department of transportation  
26 amend the state comprehensive transportation plan with specific inclu-  
27 sion of intercity passenger rail development; and

28 *Be it further resolved:* That the Kansas department of transportation  
29 is encouraged to develop a long range passenger rail plan to be included  
30 within the framework of the 10-year comprehensive transportation plan,  
31 as a requirement to seek matching federal passenger rail capital funding;  
32 and

33 *Be it further resolved:* That the Kansas department of transportation  
34 take immediate action to apply for the grant provision in the federal  
35 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 as provided for full  
36 funding and development of the intercity passenger rail route between  
37 Kansas City and Oklahoma City, as outlined in the passenger rail feasi-  
38 bility study; and

39 *Be it further resolved:* That the Kansas department of transportation  
40 be enabled to prepare an application for an American Recovery and Re-  
41 investment Act of 2009 grant pursuant to the initiation guidelines issued  
42 by the United States Federal Railroad Administration; and

43 *Be it further resolved:* That the State of Kansas intends to further

1 develop its multi-modal transportation plan incorporating supplemental  
2 state passenger rail funding contingent on the findings of the Amtrak  
3 Kansas study; and

4 *Be it further resolved:* That the State of Kansas seeks to enhance  
5 economic development opportunities in its communities through supple-  
6 mental passenger rail operations; and

7 *Be it further resolved:* That Amtrak is encouraged to expedite com-  
8 pletion and delivery of the Kansas passenger rail feasibility study; and

9 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State be directed to send  
10 enrolled copies of this resolution to the United States Department of  
11 Transportation Secretary, members of the Kansas Congressional Dele-  
12 gation, members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the Gov-  
13 ernors of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, the Secretaries of Transportation  
14 from Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, the State Senate Presidents of  
15 Oklahoma and Texas, the House Speakers of Oklahoma and Texas, the  
16 President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Railroad Passenger  
17 Corporation and the United States Secretary of Transportation.