

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1617

By Senators Kelsey and McGinn, Abrams, Apple, Barnett, Brownlee, Bruce, Brungardt, Colyer, Donovan, Emler, Faust-Goudeau, Francisco, Haley, Hensley, Holland, Kelly, Kultala, Lee, Lynn, Marshall, Masterson, Morris, Ostmeyer, Owens, Petersen, Pilcher-Cook, Reitz, D. Schmidt, V. Schmidt, Schodorf, Steineger, Taddiken, Teichman, Umbarger, Vratil, Wagle and Wysong

3-23

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

20  
21 WHEREAS, The State of Kansas appropriated \$200,000 in 2008 for  
22 a National Railroad Passenger Corporation (hereafter referenced as Am-  
23 trak) passenger rail feasibility study; and

24 WHEREAS, Amtrak began work on the feasibility study in December  
25 2008; and

26 WHEREAS, Kansas is developing its 10-year comprehensive trans-  
27 portation plan; and

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

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

33 WHEREAS, \$1.9 billion will be appropriated during the federal FY  
34 2009 through the FY 2013 for state matching capital grants not to exceed  
35 80 percent federal contribution; and

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

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

40 WHEREAS, Energy price volatility is expected to continue for the  
41 foreseeable future; and

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

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

4 WHEREAS, Economic development generated by after-the-fare box-  
5 revenues are important for the safety, quality of life, stabilization of local  
6 government tax bases, out-of-state tourism and visitation with associated  
7 revenues and tax collections and economic health of Kansas communities;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Underutilized or abandoned railroad stations will benefit  
10 from the financial investment provided under federal grants and further  
11 enhance the economic opportunity and redevelopment and revitalization  
12 of main street and rural communities; and

13 WHEREAS, The city councils and governing bodies of 33 cities and  
14 four county governments in Kansas have submitted resolutions of support  
15 for intercity passenger rail to the Kansas governor and department of  
16 transportation; and

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

20 WHEREAS, The mayors of Ponca City, Perry, Guthrie, Edmond,  
21 Oklahoma City, Norman, Purcell and Ardmore in Oklahoma signed a  
22 letter of emergency seeking Amtrak expansion through to Kansas City:  
23 Now, therefore,

24 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Rep-*  
25 *resentatives concurring therein:* That we recognize the Kansas depart-  
26 ment of transportation, the Oklahoma department of transportation, the  
27 Texas department of transportation and Amtrak for their work in prepar-  
28 ing an Amtrak feasibility study; and

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

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

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

43 *Be it further resolved:* That the Kansas department of transportation

1 be enabled to prepare an application for an American Recovery and Re-  
2 investment Act of 2009 grant pursuant to the initiation guidelines issued  
3 by the United States Federal Railroad Administration; and  
4 *Be it further resolved:* That the State of Kansas intends to further  
5 develop its multi-modal transportation plan incorporating supplemental  
6 state passenger rail funding contingent on the findings of the Amtrak  
7 Kansas study; and  
8 *Be it further resolved:* That the State of Kansas seeks to enhance  
9 economic development opportunities in its communities through supple-  
10 mental passenger rail operations; and  
11 *Be it further resolved:* That Amtrak is encouraged to expedite com-  
12 pletion and delivery of the Kansas passenger rail feasibility study; and  
13 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State be directed to send  
14 enrolled copies of this resolution to the United States Department of  
15 Transportation Secretary, members of the Kansas Congressional Dele-  
16 gation, members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the Gov-  
17 ernors of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, the Secretaries of Transportation  
18 from Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, the State Senate Presidents of  
19 Oklahoma and Texas, the House Speakers of Oklahoma and Texas, the  
20 President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Railroad Passenger  
21 Corporation and the United States Secretary of Transportation.