



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois has a competitive advantage over other  
3 states with our extensive network of railroads that are the  
4 envy of other states; and

5 WHEREAS, Our passenger train service is not up to par with  
6 other states and a faint echo of the passenger train service  
7 enjoyed by other Western nations; and

8 WHEREAS, The City of Chicago is a rail hub of the nation,  
9 with dozens of different lines converging in downtown Chicago,  
10 creating economic opportunities but also massive gridlock that  
11 affects freight and passenger train service all over the State  
12 of Illinois; and

13 WHEREAS, The CREATE (Chicago Region Environmental and  
14 Transportation Efficiency) Program is a proposed \$1.5-billion  
15 modernization of the freight and passenger rail infrastructure  
16 serving Chicago and northeast Illinois that will improve  
17 passenger rail service, reduce freight rail and highway  
18 congestion, eliminate numerous conflicts between rail and road  
19 traffic, reduce motorist delays, and enhance safety; and

20 WHEREAS, The plan calls for creation of five rail corridors  
21 through the city, including one primarily for passenger trains,  
22 improvements at 33 grade crossings in the Chicago region, and  
23 the opening of a key corridor in downtown Chicago for  
24 commercial development; and

25 WHEREAS, The private railroad companies are contributing a  
26 significant amount of funds to the project, along with the City  
27 of Chicago and the federal government; and

28 WHEREAS, The federal government's share of the program has  
29 not been appropriated or authorized; and

1           WHEREAS, The State's \$200 million investment in upgrading  
2 the track between Chicago and St. Louis relies on the CREATE  
3 Program to improve service from Joliet to Chicago; therefore,  
4 be it

5           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, That we  
7 call on the Congress and the President to work to secure full  
8 funding for the CREATE Program; and be it further

9           RESOLVED, That we call on the Congress and the President to  
10 work to secure federal funding to complete the necessary  
11 infrastructure work on the Chicago-Springfield-St. Louis  
12 corridor; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That we call on Governor Blagojevich to include  
14 sufficient funding in the State's 2006 budget to increase  
15 service on the Chicago-Springfield-St. Louis corridor from  
16 three daily departures to five daily departures; and be it  
17 further

18           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
19 delivered to the President of the United States, the President  
20 pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House  
21 of Representatives, each member of the Illinois congressional  
22 delegation, and the Governor.