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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Congress and the new administration are working to shape federal policy to respond to the nation's economic crisis; and

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WHEREAS, Congress and the new administration are working to stimulate the economy by some of the largest public works investment in 50 years; and

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WHEREAS, Difficult choices must be made in determining what types of investments to make in the nation's infrastructure in any federal stimulus and recovery Act; and

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WHEREAS, Passenger train service offers some of the best return on investment as expanded and improved passenger train service is an environmentally-friendly transportation choice, a permanent source of economic development by tying together cities and regions, and a creator of permanent jobs both in the operation of the service and in the maintenance of the trainsets, tracks, and related infrastructure; and

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WHEREAS, Railroad jobs, whether with Amtrak, host freight railroads, or railroad suppliers, are typically well-paying full-time jobs with benefits that usually pay more than the nation's median income; and

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1           WHEREAS, The United States' passenger rail service is far  
2 inferior to those of our global competitors due largely to a  
3 lack of rigorous federal investment over the last 50 years; and

4           WHEREAS, Recently the federal government has begun to  
5 invest in passenger rail, and the upcoming debate over the  
6 American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan is an opportunity to  
7 fully invest in passenger rail as part of the nation's economic  
8 stimulus and recovery; therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Illinois Senate  
11 calls on Congress and President Barack Obama to maximize the  
12 investment in expanded and improved passenger train service as  
13 part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan; and be it  
14 further

15           RESOLVED, That Congress and President Barack Obama take  
16 full advantage of this opportunity for a full, vigorous federal  
17 investment in expanding and improving passenger train service  
18 with 100% federal sources to build the foundation for lasting  
19 prosperity with environmentally-friendly connections between  
20 cities and towns in the region and the nation; and be it  
21 further

1           RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to  
2           President Barack Obama, the U.S. Senate Majority Leader, the  
3           Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and each member  
4           of the Illinois Congressional delegation.