



SR0404

LRB097 14075 HEP 58735 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Amtrak Illinois service has been an excellent  
3 investment in mobility for Illinois' economy for more than 30  
4 years; and

5 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has for decades been a  
6 partner of Amtrak, the National Railroad Passenger  
7 Corporation, in financing additional service in Illinois  
8 beyond the national network of long-distance passenger trains;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois has enjoyed a bipartisan, statewide  
11 consensus on the value of passenger train service to link the  
12 State's universities, smaller communities, suburbs, and  
13 Chicago; and

14 WHEREAS, With ever-increasing traffic on the State's  
15 highways, especially in the Chicago area, investing in  
16 passenger rail to alleviate automobile traffic is a prudent use  
17 of taxpayer dollars; and

18 WHEREAS, A robust passenger train system is an essential  
19 component of national security in the event of a mass  
20 evacuation, as demonstrated by the aftermath of the September  
21 11 attacks and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina; and

1           WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly in 2006 doubled its  
2           commitment to Amtrak Illinois service, setting the nation on a  
3           path for growth in passenger rail, and has reaped doubled  
4           ridership on almost all routes in the State, sparking real  
5           estate development around train stations and frequently  
6           selling out trains; and

7           WHEREAS, An essential tool for rural economic development  
8           is passenger trains connecting small towns to the economic  
9           engines of large cities and universities; and

10          WHEREAS, The United States House of Representatives passed  
11          a budget bill that precludes the use of any federal dollars for  
12          State-supported Amtrak routes such as the Lincoln Service, the  
13          Illini, the Saluki, the Carl Sandburg, and the Hiawatha; and

14          WHEREAS, The provision in the House budget bill would  
15          essentially eliminate most Amtrak service in Illinois,  
16          stranding almost 2 million annual passengers; and

17          WHEREAS, The House budget bill woefully underfunds Amtrak  
18          and the high speed rail program; and

19          WHEREAS, In light of Illinois' continued robust capital and  
20          operating investment in Amtrak and high speed rail, it is

1 particularly shortsighted for the federal government to  
2 eliminate or cut back its investment in passenger rail;  
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the United  
6 States Congress to fully fund Amtrak and the high speed rail  
7 program; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Congress to  
9 eliminate any provision that would reduce the federal  
10 investment in State-supported Amtrak service, as this  
11 partnership is a model to be emulated, not discouraged; and be  
12 it further

13 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be presented to  
14 Senators Dick Durbin, Mark Kirk and the entire congressional  
15 delegation of the State of Illinois.