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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois is the crossroads of the American freight
3 rail system, with 40 freight railroads operating on 7,000 miles
4 of track and employing more than 13,000 people; and

5 WHEREAS, Nothing is more important to the nation's freight
6 railroads than safety; the railroad industry's commitment to
7 safety is reflected in safety statistics from the Federal
8 Railroad Administration; from 1980 to 2013, the train accident
9 rate fell by 79%, while the employee injury rate fell by 84%
10 and the grade crossing collision rate fell by 81%; and

11 WHEREAS, Safety efforts of the railroad industry extend far
12 beyond the industry's 180,000 employees and 140,000 mile rail
13 network, reaching into the communities they serve; and

14 WHEREAS, As common carriers, railroads are required by law
15 to transport hazardous materials, including crude oil; and

16 WHEREAS, Railroads work closely with state and local
17 leaders and emergency responders across their network to ensure
18 that communities understand how railroads operate and are
19 prepared in the event of an accident; and

20 WHEREAS, Each year, thousands of emergency responders and

1 railroad and shipper employees receive specialized training
2 through individual railroad efforts and industry programs;
3 railroads actively participate in state emergency planning
4 committees and state agency conferences on emergency response;
5 railroads also invest in equipment - including foam trailers -
6 that are used to train emergency response personnel and respond
7 to accidents involving hazardous materials; and

8 WHEREAS, Railroads provide interstate commerce services
9 that are vital to the economic well-being of the State of
10 Illinois and the nation; and

11 WHEREAS, Railroads recognize there are inherent risks to
12 conducting their business and remain vigilant in their efforts
13 to meet or exceed federal standards; and

14 WHEREAS, Railroads continue to devote enormous resources -
15 approximately 18% of their gross revenues - into their
16 infrastructure in an effort to maintain their physical property
17 in a safe condition; in 2015, the railroads will devote \$29
18 billion to infrastructure improvements; and

19 WHEREAS, Railroads continuously evaluate new and emerging
20 technologies in an unwavering effort to continue to improve
21 upon their safety record; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
3 urge the railroad industry to continue its efforts to educate
4 and inform public officials on its handling of hazardous
5 materials, both in normal operating circumstances and in times
6 of unanticipated incidents, and to maintain its great
7 commitment to conducting its operations in as safe and
8 effective of a manner as possible in its ongoing efforts to
9 meet the needs of its customers as consistently and efficiently
10 as practicable.