ENROLLED HOUSE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1008

By: Stottlemyre, Toure and Adair of the House

and

Easley of the Senate

A Concurrent Resolution requesting Congress to provide support for Amtrak; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Amtrak is energy efficient and environmentally beneficial, consuming about half as much energy per passenger mile as airlines and causing less air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak provides mobility to citizens of many smaller communities poorly served by air and bus services, as well as to those senior citizens, disabled people, students, and persons with medical conditions preventing them from flying who need trains as a travel option; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak is nine times safer than driving on a passenger mile basis, and operates even in severe weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, expansion of Amtrak service by using existing rail rights-of-way would cost less and use less land than new highways and airports, and would further increase Amtrak's energy-efficiency advantage; and

WHEREAS, federal investment in Amtrak has fallen in the last decade while it has risen for airports and highways; and

WHEREAS, states may use highway trust fund money as an eighty percent (80%) federal match for a variety of nonhighway programs, but states are prohibited from using such monies for Amtrak projects; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak pays a fuel tax that airlines do not pay; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak workers and vendors pay more in taxes than the federal government invests in Amtrak.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT federal funding of Amtrak not be reduced.

THAT Amtrak be granted an exemption from certain fuel taxes similar to the exemption granted to airlines.

THAT states be given the flexibility to use federal highway trust fund monies on Amtrak projects if states so choose.

THAT federal officials include a strong Amtrak system in any plans for a national transportation system.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 9th day of March, 1995.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Adopted by the Senate the 25th day of May, 1995.

President of the Senate