

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

SENATE  
RESOLUTION 33

By: Muegge

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution calling upon Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation to support expansion of federally funded passenger rail service into Oklahoma; calling for support of the Arkansas/Oklahoma/Texas "South Central Corridor"; commending the Amtrak Reform Council and Amtrak employees; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, 65,000 travelers use Oklahoma's Heartland Flyer rail service each year. Since 1970, increasing numbers of Americans have turned to rail for their travel needs and since the events of September 11, 2001, an increasing share of travel has occurred on the rails; and

WHEREAS, through many respected public opinion polls and dozens of hearings held nationwide, Americans have overwhelmingly indicated their support for an improved national rail system. However, federal spending for rail passenger service has dropped sixty-five percent since 1981; and

WHEREAS, fast, frequent, comfortable, and cost-effective regional trains can be a major part of the solution to Oklahoma's transportation challenges because rail is often the least costly and most unobtrusive way to add transportation capacity in heavily traveled corridors; and

WHEREAS, if the interstate, long distance rail network were eliminated, Oklahoma's rail service would become an island disconnected from other intercity trains, further hampering the success of existing and future Oklahoma rail passenger service. Many hundreds of thousands of Oklahomans because of age, disability

or economic circumstances are unable to easily use our air or roadway system and need the rail travel alternative; and

WHEREAS, the Congressionally chartered Amtrak Reform Council has called upon Congress to provide a stable source of operating and capital funds for a defined national network of interstate, long distance trains and adequate capital funding to partner with the states in developing high speed rail corridors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate calls upon Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation to support a federally funded network of interstate, long distance trains, including expansion of that network into Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate further calls upon Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation to support a similar level of federal commitment for developing high speed rail corridors, including the federally designated Arkansas/Oklahoma/Texas "South Central Corridor".

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends the Amtrak Reform Council for its efforts in developing solutions that incorporate free market forces to improve rail services and further commends Amtrak's employees for their thirty-year workforce contribution during a period of an eighty percent drop in federal operating support.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation and the Amtrak Reform Council.

48-2-3048

THC

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