

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

HOUSE

RESOLUTION HR1006

By: Sullivan and Nations

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution requesting the Congressional Delegation to support passenger rail components; urging support of funding for intercity passenger rail; urging support of a preserved and improved nationwide passenger rail system; requesting oversight of policy; urging full federal funding of Amtrak; urging full federal funding of a national passenger rail system; urging support for network of national system trains including expansion into Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, 65,000 travelers use Oklahoma's Heartland Flyer rail service each year, and since 1970, increasing numbers of Americans have turned to rail for their travel needs; 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, yet federal spending for rail passenger service has dropped sixty-five percent since 1981; and

WHEREAS, if the interstate, long distance rail network were eliminated, Oklahoma's rail service would become an island disconnected from other intercity trains, 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, in order to ensure the safety, quality, reliability and efficiency of our country's vital transportation network and to preserve our national defense, America needs a balanced, integrated

transportation system, and the American people need diverse transportation choices; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail is a critical component of a modern, multi-modal transportation system and needs to have financial support, unified policy development and oversight similar to that afforded to our air, highway and mass transit modes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives requests Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation to support within the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization, including Amtrak Reauthorization legislation, passenger rail components which are critical to the future of passenger rail in the United States.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives urges Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation to support the establishment of a dedicated, multi-year federal capital-funding program for intercity passenger rail, patterned after the existing federal highway, airport and mass transit programs.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives urges Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation to support the establishment of, as federal policy, a preserved and improved national passenger rail system as a nationwide, interconnected passenger rail system that stimulates higher levels of efficiency, innovation and responsiveness.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives requests Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation to direct the Federal Railroad Administration, or another agency within the United States Department of Transportation to coordinate with states to develop, fund and oversee this federal policy.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives urges Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation to provide full federal funding of Amtrak during the period that the new federal plans and policies are being developed.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives urges Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation to fully fund the implementation of the national passenger rail system with its new efficiencies, innovation and responsiveness, in subsequent years.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives urges Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation to continue to support the network of national system trains, including expansion of that network into Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation.

49-1-6329

BW

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