

County of Allegheny

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MEMO TO: Senator James Webb
Senator Mark Warner
Congressman Robert Goodlatte
Congressman Rick Boucher
Congressman, Frank Wolf

FROM: John R. Strutner, County Administrator *JRS*

DATE: April 22, 2009

SUBJECT: Resolution Regarding the *North American Steel Interstate System*

Attached is resolution R-09-30 which the Allegheny County Board of Supervisors adopted at its April 21, 2009 regular meeting.

By this resolution, the Board urgently petitions our congressional delegation to work in concert with representatives of other I-81 Corridor states to sponsor and secure passage of a Federal transportation demonstration grant to assemble in that corridor between Knoxville, Tennessee and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the pilot segment of 21st-Century rail, the *North American Steel Interstate System*.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (540) 863-6600.

JRS/mm

cc: Harriet Hodges, Rail Solution

John R. Strutner, County Administrator

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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representatives of other I-81 Corridor states to sponsor and secure passage of a Federal transportation demonstration grant to assemble in that corridor between Knoxville, Tennessee and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the pilot segment of 21st-Century rail, the **North American Steel Interstate System**.

On motion of Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. May, that the following resolution be adopted:

A RESOLUTION PETITIONING VIRGINIA'S FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES TO SPONSOR A GRANT FOR BUILDING A MODEL 21ST-CENTURY RAIL STEEL INTERSTATE SERVICE IN THE INTERSTATE-81 CORRIDOR TO DEMONSTRATE FAST RAIL FREIGHT AND PASSENGER SERVICE POTENTIAL TO THE NATION

WHEREAS, Europe offers numerous 21st-Century "Steel Interstate" rail service concepts, but no such rail service exists in the United States, thereby exposing us to greater risk from petroleum depletion, cost increases, supply interruptions, and economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, Steel Interstate rail provides reduced dependence on imported fuel, builds modal redundancy, enhances national security, and - when electrified - offers the U. S. opportunity to employ domestic renewable energy sources and efficiency to drive transportation; and

WHEREAS, Steel Interstate rail demonstrates vastly greater transportation productivity and efficiency over equivalent investment in interstate highway expansion; and

WHEREAS, Steel Interstate technology offers positive advantages for communities, the Commonwealth, other I-81 states, and the United States relating to cost, safety, economic growth, tourism development, decreased fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, improved air quality and public health, varied freight and passenger service options, reduced financing, and carbon cap-and-trade risk exposure; and

WHEREAS, forty-nine Virginia and four Tennessee governing bodies have previously voted their support for improved rail service over massive widening of I-81; and

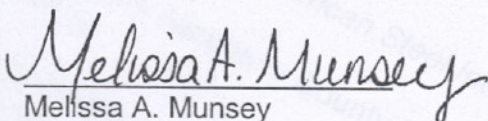
WHEREAS, no passenger rail and only limited bus service exists in this corridor south of Staunton/Clifton Forge, west of Lynchburg/Danville, or north of Atlanta/Birmingham, despite efforts by dozens of local governing bodies and private groups in the Commonwealth to restore passenger rail service through the Trans Dominion Express; and

WHEREAS, Congress is considering investments in transportation, energy efficiency, fuel conservation, renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement, and infrastructure as fiscal stimulus for the nation, and the Steel Interstate offers outstanding opportunity in all these areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors urgently petition our congressional delegation to work in concert with representatives of other I-81 Corridor states to sponsor and secure passage of a Federal transportation demonstration grant to assemble in that corridor between Knoxville, Tennessee and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the pilot segment of 21st-Century rail, the **North American Steel Interstate System**.

Unanimously adopted.

A COPY TESTE:



Melissa A. Munsey
Deputy Clerk to the Board