



CITY OF HARRISONBURG

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

KAI DEGNER
MAYOR

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Resolution petitioning Virginia's Federal representatives to sponsor a grant for building a model 21st Century rail Steel Interstate service in the I-81 corridor to demonstrate fast rail freight and passenger service to the nation

WHEREAS; "Steel Interstate" rail service concepts offer opportunities to reduce risk from petroleum depletion, cost increases, supply interruptions, and global economic competition; 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 energy sources and efficiency to drive transportation; and

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

WHEREAS; Steel Interstate technology offers positive advantages for communities, the Commonwealth, other I-81 states and localities, including Harrisonburg and the Shenandoah Valley, 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 to support for improved rail service over the massive widening of I-81; and

WHEREAS; no passenger rail and limited public 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

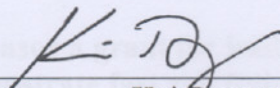
WHEREAS; Congress is considering investments in transportation, energy efficiency, fuel conservation, renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement, and infrastructure as a fiscal stimulus for the nation and the Steel Interstate offers outstanding opportunity in all these areas; and

WHEREAS; the City of Harrisonburg recognizes that this demonstration grant will not take away funding from other necessary and targeted improvements along I-81 and other arterial roadways, especially for safety concerns, including projects in and near the City of Harrisonburg;

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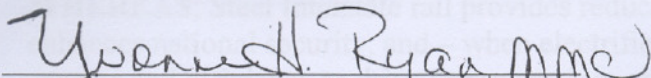
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT we, the city council of the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia, urgently petition our congressional delegation to work in concert with representatives of other I-81 corridor states to sponsor and secure passage of a Federal transportation demonstration grant to assemble in the I-81 corridor between Knoxville, Tennessee and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the pilot segment of 21st Century rail, the North American Steel Interstate.

Signed this 22nd day of September, 2009.



Kai Degner, Mayor

ATTEST:


Yvonne H. Ryan, MMC, City Clerk