



CITY OF KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE

February 12, 2009

Dave Foster
Executive Director
RAIL Solutions
342 High Street
Salem, VA 24153

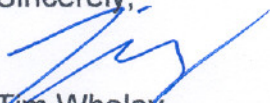
Dear: Mr. Foster,

On behalf of Kingsport Alderman Ken Marsh, please accept this copy of the Steel Interstate Resolution which recently passed the Kingsport Board of Mayor and Aldermen by a unanimous 7-0 vote.

Alderman Marsh asked me to go ahead and send this to you, and indicated he will be in touch with you shortly.

Thanks for all of your efforts to bring a common sense approach to interstate capacity needs.

Sincerely,



Tim Whaley,
Community & Government Relations Director
City of Kingsport
423-229-9413

Cc: Attachment



RESOLUTION NO. 2009-172

A RESOLUTION PETITIONING TENNESSEE'S CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO SPONSOR A GRANT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A MODEL 21st CENTURY STEEL INTERSTATE RAIL SYSTEM ALONG THE INTERSTATE 81/ INTERSTATE 40 CORRIDOR TO DEMONSTRATE THE POTENTIAL OF FAST FREIGHT RAIL AND PASSENGER SERVICE TO THE NATION

WHEREAS, European and Asian nations continue to advance numerous 21st Century "Steel Interstate" rail service concepts, not a single rail service in the United States has yet to undertake this challenge, exposing our nation to greater risk from the volatility of petroleum costs and supply, as well as weakening the country's overall economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the Steel Interstate Rail System would reduce our dependence on imported fuel, enhancing national security while building corridor capacity, modal redundancy, and, simultaneously enhancing safety and environmental quality; and

WHEREAS, the Steel Interstate demonstrates vastly greater transportation productivity compared to an equivalent investment in interstate highway expansion, and, when electrified, offers the opportunity to deploy domestic, renewable energy resources; and

WHEREAS, Steel Interstate technology offers positive advantages relating to cost, safety, and economic growth, decreased fuel consumption and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved air quality and public health, while offering far more transportation capacity for far fewer dollars than asphalt-based investments; and

WHEREAS, forty-four governing bodies in Virginia and four in Tennessee have previously voted support for improved rail service as opposed to massive widening of I-81; and

WHEREAS, no passenger rail and only limited public bus service exists in this Corridor south of Staunton, Virginia, or north of Atlanta/Birmingham, despite efforts by dozens of local governing bodies and private groups in Tennessee to restore passenger rail service; 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 is a perfect fit in all of these areas.

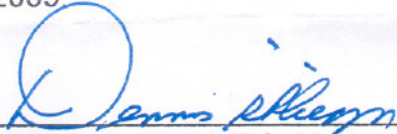
Now Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN AS
FOLLOWS:


SECTION I. That the City of Kingsport urgently petitions our Congressional delegation to work in concert with representatives of other I-81/I-40 Corridor states to sponsor and secure passage of a Federal transportation demonstration grant to assemble the I-81/I40 Corridor from Memphis to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, via Knoxville, Tennessee, and designated as the pilot segment of the 21st Century Steel Interstate System.

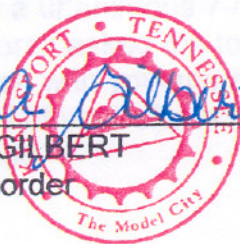
SECTION II. That this resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the public welfare requiring it.

ADOPTED this the 3rd day of February, 2009

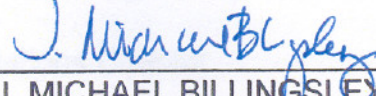

DENNIS R. PHILLIPS, Mayor

ATTEST:


ELIZABETH A. GILBERT
Deputy City Recorder



APPROVED AS TO FORM:


J. MICHAEL BILLINGSLEY, City Attorney