

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

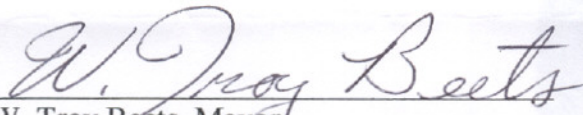
WHEREAS, Congress is considering investments in transportation, energy efficiency, fuel conservation, renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement, and infrastructure as fiscal stimulus for the nation, and the Steel Interstate is a perfect fit in all of these areas.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:


SECTION I. That the City of Kingston 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/I-40 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.

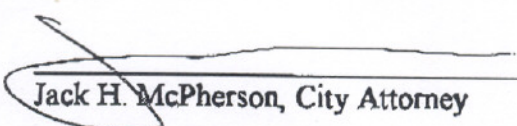
ADOPTED this the 14th. day of April, 2009.


W. Troy Beets, Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Jack H. McPherson, City Attorney