

MOUNT ROGERS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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RESOLUTION MOUNT ROGERS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION APRIL 16, 2009 7:00 PM

WHEREAS a "Steel Interstate" rail system offers the promise of reduced Interstate truck traffic, reduced dependence on imported fuel, greater modal redundancy, enhanced national security, and—when electrified—offers the U.S. the opportunity to employ domestic renewable energy sources and efficiency to drive transportation; and

WHEREAS Steel Interstate technology offers positive advantages for communities, the Commonwealth, other Interstate 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, and varied freight and passenger service options; and

WHEREAS, The Mount Rogers Planning District Commission previously adopted a resolution that requested that rail alternatives be an "integral and necessary component of the Interstate 81 improvement project,"; and

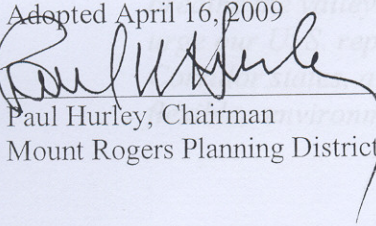
WHEREAS Congress is considering investments in transportation, energy efficiency, fuel conservation, renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement, and infrastructure as fiscal stimulus for the nation, and the envisioned Steel Interstate rail project offers opportunity in all these areas;

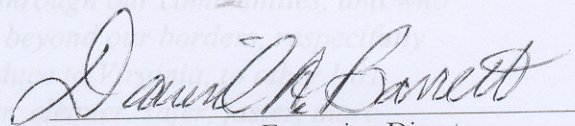
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, urgently petition our congressional delegation to work in concert with representatives of other I-81 Corridor states to sponsor and secure passage of funding for a comprehensive feasibility study for the pilot segment (between Knoxville and Harrisburg) of a National Steel Interstate System.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission believes that the following items should be included in the comprehensive study: 1) a market feasibility analysis to identify and survey potential users; 2) engineering and design to determine required infrastructure improvements, options, costs, and speed improvement potential; 3) determination of appropriate environmental permitting; 4) exploration of financing, repayment, ownership and partnership scenarios; and 5) review of appropriate state/federal/private or other cooperative agreements.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission believes strongly that the Norfolk-Southern Corporation, as the owner of the current rail right-of-way and provider of rail service in the I-81 corridor, should be a primary supporter of and participant in the undertaking of the feasibility study.

Adopted April 16, 2009


Paul Hurley, Chairman
Mount Rogers Planning District Commission


David A. Barrett, Executive Director
Mount Rogers Planning District Commission