

RUSSELL COUNTY



Members

Danny L. Brown, Chairman
Mike Puckett, Vice Chairman
Jon Bowerbank
Robert J. Keene
Ernest "Shy" Kennedy
Bill Wampler

James A. Gillespie
County Administrator

P.O. Box 1208
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Phone (276) 889-8000
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russellcounty@bvunet.net

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

June 1, 2009

The Honorable Frederick C. Boucher
U. S. House of Representatives
2187 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Representative Boucher:

Providing safe, reliable, and economical transportation for fast passenger and freight service is important for today's and tomorrow's economy.

The Russell County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your consideration of the enclosed resolution to sponsor legislation to fund a comprehensive study of the proposed "Steel Interstate" rail system pilot project between Knoxville, TN, and Harrisburg, PA.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Danny L. Brown
Chairman

Enclosure: as stated

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

June 1, 2009

The Honorable Jim Webb
Member, United States Senate
Russell Senate Building, Rm. 144
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Webb:

Providing safe, reliable, and economical transportation for fast passenger and freight service is important for today's and tomorrow's economy.

The Russell County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your consideration of the enclosed resolution to sponsor legislation to fund a comprehensive study of the proposed "Steel Interstate" rail system pilot project between Knoxville, TN, and Harrisburg, PA.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

June 1, 2009

The Honorable Mark Warner
Member, United States Senate
Russell Senate Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Warner:

Providing safe, reliable, and economical transportation for fast passenger and freight service is important for today's and tomorrow's economy.

The Russell County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your consideration of the enclosed resolution to sponsor legislation to fund a comprehensive study of the proposed "Steel Interstate" rail system pilot project between Knoxville, TN, and Harrisburg, PA.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Danny L. Brown
Chairman

Enclosure as stated

RESOLUTION
Of the
Russell County Board of Supervisors

WHEREAS, Congress is considering investments in transportation, public health, renewable energy, energy efficiency, fuel conservation, greenhouse gas abatement, and public infrastructure as fiscal stimulus, and a National Steel Interstate rail system will promote all these goals, and

WHEREAS, Steel Interstate rail service would reduce Interstate truck traffic and dependence on imported oil, while enhancing safety, national security, and economic competitiveness, and

WHEREAS, a Steel Interstate System offers the nation greater transportation productivity at lower cost compared to equivalent interstate highway expansion, and

WHEREAS, today, no passenger rail service, diminishing airline service, and limited intercity public bus service exists within the I-81 corridor and surrounding region but Steel Interstate service allows for harmonious fast passenger and freight operation, 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, and varied freight and passenger service options, and

WHEREAS, when electrified, the Steel Interstate System offers the U.S. opportunity to employ domestic, renewable energy sources and efficiency to drive transportation, and

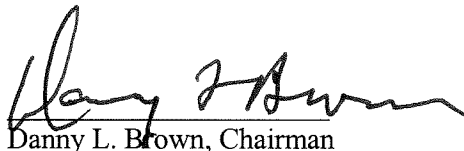
WHEREAS, forty-nine Virginia and four Tennessee governing bodies have previously voted support for improved rail service over massive widening of I-81;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Russell, urgently petition our congressional delegation to work in concert with other I-81 Corridor representatives to sponsor and secure funding for a comprehensive study for the pilot segment (between Knoxville and Harrisburg) of a National Steel Interstate System.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Russell County, Virginia, asserts that the following should be included in the comprehensive study: 1) user surveys to identify attractive and cost-effective services to divert the most truckloads to rail and of potential passengers in this corridor, based on 79 MPH track speeds; 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 Board of Supervisors of Russell County strongly urges the Norfolk-Southern Corporation, as owner of the current rail right-of-way and provider of rail service in the I-81 corridor, to support and participate in the undertaking of the comprehensive study.

Signed this 4th day of May, 2009.


Danny L. Brown, Chairman

SEAL AFFIXED