

# Smyth County Board of Supervisors

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Michael Carter  
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April 17, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO:

The Honorable Senator Jim Webb  
The Honorable Senator Mark Warner  
The Honorable Congressman Rick Boucher  
The Honorable Congressman Bob Goodlatte  
The Honorable Congressman Frank Wolf

FROM: The Smyth County Board of Supervisors, Michael Carter, Interim County Administrator

Please find attached a copy of a resolution that was adopted by the Smyth County Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting held on April 14, 2009. The resolution supports an initiative to obtain federal funding for a comprehensive feasibility study for a pilot rail project along the U.S. 81 corridor.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Cc: Rees Shearer, Rail Solution

Enclosure



To the Honorable:

Jim Webb, United States Senator from Virginia  
Mark Warner, United States Senator from Virginia  
Bob Goodlatte, Member of Congress, VA-6  
Rick Boucher, Member of Congress, VA-9  
Frank Wolf, Member of Congress, VA-10



## **A RESOLUTION**

**Petitioning Virginia's Federal representatives to sponsor legislation to fund a comprehensive feasibility study of the proposed "Steel Interstate" rail system pilot project between Knoxville, TN and Harrisburg, PA. as a part of a National Steel Interstate System that could bring fast rail freight and passenger service potential to the nation**

**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**, Smyth County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution in 2003 that requested that rail alternatives be an "integral and necessary component of the Interstate 81 improvement project."

**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 Board of Supervisors of the County of Smyth, 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 Board of Supervisors believes that the following areas 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 Board of Supervisors 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.

Signed this 14th day of April, 2009.

Seal affixed.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C.C. Clark, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

Chairman

C.C. Clark, Jr.