

LACY B. KING, JR.
MAYOR

DIRECT DIAL 540.332.3810
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116 WEST BEVERLEY STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 58
STAUNTON, VA 24402

BIRTHPLACE OF THE COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT

January 25, 2009

Mr. David Foster
Executive Director
RAIL Solution
342 High Street
Salem, VA 24153

Dear Mr. Foster:

Enclosed is a certified resolution adopted by Staunton City Council at its meeting of January 22, 2009, petitioning our congressional delegation to work in concert with representatives of other I-81 Corridor states to patron and secure passage of a federal transportation demonstration grant.

The City of Staunton appreciates your efforts in spearheading this most important project. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Lane, MMC
Clerk of Council

Enclosure (1)

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RESOLUTION

Petitioning Virginia's federal representatives, to sponsor a demonstration grant to build 21st Century rail *Steel Interstate* service in the I-81 Corridor, demonstrating fast rail freight and passenger service potential to the nation.

WHEREAS though Europe approaches numerous 21st Century "Steel Interstate" rail service concepts, no place in the United States is even close, exposing our nation to greater risk from petroleum depletion, cost increases, and supply interruptions, and

WHEREAS Steel Interstate rail provides reduced dependence upon imported fuel, builds modal redundancy, enhances national security, and, when electrified, offers the U.S. opportunity to employ renewable energy sources and efficiency to drive transportation, and

WHEREAS Steel Interstate rail demonstrates vastly greater transportation through-put productivity over equivalent investment in costly interstate highway expansion, and

WHEREAS Steel Interstate technology offers positive advantages for communities, the Commonwealth other I-81 states and the United States relating to cost, safety, economic and tourism growth and development, savings of fuel and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved air and water quality and public health, varied freight and passenger service options, reduced financing and carbon cap and trade risk exposure, and

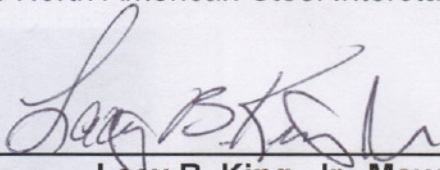
WHEREAS forty-nine Virginia and four Tennessee governing bodies* previously voted support for improved rail service rather than massive widening of I-81, and

WHEREAS no passenger rail and limited public bus service exists in the Corridor south of Staunton/Clifton Forge, west of Lynchburg/Danville, or north of Atlanta/Birmingham in this Corridor despite efforts by dozens of local governing bodies and private groups in the Commonwealth to restore passenger rail service through the Trans Dominion Express, and

WHEREAS Congress is considering investments in transportation, energy efficiency, fuel conservation, renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement, and fiscal stimulus for the nation; the Steel Interstate offers a growth leap opportunity in all these areas.

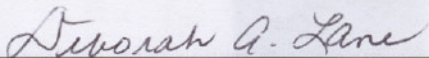
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council of the City of Staunton, urgently petition our congressional delegation to work in concert with representatives of other I-81 Corridor states to patron and secure passage of a federal transportation demonstration grant to assemble in the I-81 Corridor between Knoxville, Tennessee and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a pilot segment of 21st Century rail, the North American Steel Interstate System, this 22nd day of January, 2009.

Signed: _____



Lacy B. King, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Deborah A. Lane, Clerk of Council