

RESOLUTION 09-140

**21st CENTURY STEEL INTERSTATE GRANT RESOLUTION BEFORE THE BOARD
OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF UNICOI, TENNESSEE**

WHEREAS, Europe approaches numerous 21st Century "Steel Interstate" rail service concepts, no rail service in the United States offers this promise, exposing our nation to greater risk from petroleum depletion, cost increases, supply interruptions and economic competitiveness; and,

WHEREAS, Steel Interstate rail provides reduced dependence on imported fuel, builds model redundancy, enhances 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 rail demonstrates vastly greater transportation throughput productivity over equivalent investment in costly interstate highway expansion; and,

WHEREAS, Steel Interstate technology offers positive advantages for communities, Tennessee, other I-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, varied freight and passenger service options, reduced financing and carbon cap and trade risk exposure; and,

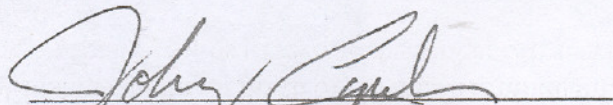
WHEREAS, forty-nine Virginia and four Tennessee governing bodies have previously voted support for improved rail service over massive widening of I-81; and,

WHEREAS, no passenger rail and limited public bus service exists in this corridor south of Staunton/Clinton Forge, west of Charlotte/Winston-Salem, or north of Atlanta/Birmingham, despite efforts by dozens of local governing bodies and private groups to restore passenger rail service; and,

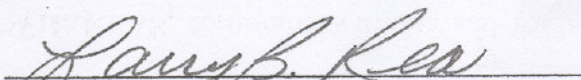
WHEREAS, Congress is considering investments in transportation, energy efficiency, fuel conservation, renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement, and infrastructure as fiscal stimulus for the nation, and the Steel Interstate offers outstanding opportunity in all these areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Unicoi Board of Mayor and Aldermen urgently petition our congressional delegation to work in concert with representatives of other I-81 corridor states to sponsor and secure passage of a federal transportation demonstration grant to assemble in the I-81 corridor between Knoxville, TN and Harrisburg, PA, the pilot segment of the 21st Century rail of the North American Steel Interstate System.

This Resolution was duly considered and adopted by the Town of Unicoi Board of Mayor and Aldermen, in and for the Town of Unicoi, Tennessee, on this the 16th day of March 2009.


Johnny Lynch, Mayor, Town of Unicoi

Attest:


Larry B. Rea, City Recorder