

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

## No. 80

Session of  
1979

---

INTRODUCED BY D. S. HAYES AND BOWSER, MAY 23, 1979

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS,  
MAY 23, 1979

---

In the House of Representatives, May 23, 1979

1 WHEREAS, The Carter Administration, through the United States  
2 Department of Transportation, has proposed a plan that would  
3 substantially reduce the Amtrak system, America's only national  
4 rail passenger transportation system; and

5 WHEREAS, The administration plan would eliminate passenger  
6 train service to Erie, would reduce to one the number of trains  
7 serving Pittsburgh and would otherwise severely limit passenger  
8 train service in Pennsylvania; and

9 WHEREAS, The administration's plan would take effect at a  
10 time when gasoline supplies for private automobiles are at their  
11 lowest since the Arab oil boycott of 1974, and at a time when  
12 gasoline rationing is being discussed as a real possibility,  
13 and, ironically, when public transportation, including Amtrak,  
14 is enjoying great and increasing patronage; and

15 WHEREAS, It is a stated policy of the Carter Administration  
16 that Americans should conserve gasoline and other forms of  
17 energy by using public transportation; and

1       WHEREAS, Railroads provide one of the most energy efficient  
2 means of passenger transportation, with private automobiles  
3 providing approximately 20 passenger miles per gallon of fuel,  
4 with airlines providing approximately 20 passenger miles per  
5 gallon of fuel, with railroads providing approximately 100  
6 passenger miles per gallon of fuel, and intercity buses  
7 providing approximately 116 passenger miles per gallon of fuel;  
8 and

9       WHEREAS, Reducing Amtrak routes and service creates a spiral  
10 that results in less service to consumers, higher unit costs on  
11 the remaining service, and may ultimately cause the demise of an  
12 entire transportation system that has been proven, if properly  
13 operated, to be the most energy efficient, economical, and  
14 safest of all modes of intercity transportation; and

15       WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of  
16 Pennsylvania finds that continued rail passenger service is  
17 essential to the economic well-being of Pennsylvania; therefore  
18 be it

19       RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
20 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urges the President of the  
21 United States to reconsider the decision to reduce Amtrak  
22 service and the Amtrak system, particularly in view of the  
23 adverse impact of such reductions on national transportation and  
24 energy policies; and be it further

25       RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urges the members of the  
26 Pennsylvania Congressional delegation to develop and support  
27 proposals that would guarantee adequate rail passenger service  
28 for the citizens of this Commonwealth and of the United States;  
29 and be it further

30       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the

1 President of the United States, the Secretary of the United  
2 States Department of Transportation, and to the Senators and  
3 Representatives from Pennsylvania.