

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 811 Session of  
2010

INTRODUCED BY FLECK, GEIST, BEAR, BEYER, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN,  
DONATUCCI, EVERETT, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, HELM, HENNESSEY,  
KORTZ, MAJOR, MUSTIO, PHILLIPS, QUINN, READSHAW, ROCK,  
ROEBUCK, SAINATO, STERN, SWANGER AND VULAKOVICH, MAY 24, 2010

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MAY 24,  
2010

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the East Broad Top Railroad on the occasion of its  
2 50th anniversary of operation as a tourist attraction.

3 WHEREAS, The East Broad Top Railroad & Coal Company (EBT) was  
4 originally chartered on April 16, 1856, to mine and transport  
5 coal from the rich fields of Broad Top Mountain; and

6 WHEREAS, The railroad did not commence operations until more  
7 than fifteen years later when the Rockhill Iron & Coal Company  
8 (RIC) was incorporated; and

9 WHEREAS, The founders of RIC bought a controlling interest in  
10 EBT stock and made plans to construct a narrow gauge railway;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The line was opened from Mt. Union to Rockhill  
13 Furnace on August 30, 1873, and was completed in 1874 to the  
14 company town of Robertsdale; and

15 WHEREAS, Trains made several daily runs to Mt. Union, where  
16 coal was transferred to the standard gauge cars of the

1 Pennsylvania Railroad; and

2 WHEREAS, As the railroad prospered, passenger service was  
3 expanded to include public excursions as well as transport of  
4 miners; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1906, a new passenger station and company offices  
6 were constructed at Rockhill which bears the name of the  
7 neighboring town of Orbisonia; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1919, the EBT was purchased by Madeira, Hill &  
9 Company (MHC); and

10 WHEREAS, In 1938, after MHC's bankruptcy, bondholders  
11 reorganized the company as the Rockhill Coal Company; and

12 WHEREAS, In April 1956, the last run was made to Mt. Union  
13 and the EBT became the last operating narrow gauge east of the  
14 Rocky Mountains; and

15 WHEREAS, Soon after closing in 1956, the Kovalchick Salvage  
16 Company of Indiana, Pennsylvania, bought the railroad and all  
17 its assets; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1960, passenger service was restored to celebrate  
19 the bicentennials of Orbisonia and Rockhill and the EBT was  
20 designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964 and remains the  
21 most complete and authentic narrow gauge site in America and the  
22 last original narrow gauge east of the Rockies; and

23 WHEREAS, The Friends of the East Broad Top was incorporated  
24 in 1983 to document, preserve and restore the EBT; and

25 WHEREAS, In 2009, the nonprofit EBT Preservation Association  
26 signed a three-year contract to operate the trains of the EBT  
27 with an option to purchase; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
29 East Broad Top Railroad on the occasion of its 50th anniversary  
30 of operation as a tourist attraction; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the East  
2 Broad Top Preservation Association.