
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 226 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, DeLUCA, D. COSTA, READSHAW, DONATUCCI,
BRIGGS, SCHLEGEL CULVER, THOMAS, RYAN, IRVIN, McNEILL,
DRISCOLL, BIZZARRO, W. KELLER, HARKINS, WATSON, SCHLOSSBERG,
MARSHALL, DAVIS, MILLARD, WARD, FREEMAN, LONGIETTI, NEILSON,
STAATS, HILL-EVANS, SCHWEYER, CALTAGIRONE, A. HARRIS, RAPP,
SANKEY AND GILLEN, APRIL 10, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 10, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the contributions that the freight rail industry and
2 its employees have made to the national transportation
3 system.

4 WHEREAS, The United States has the most efficient and
5 productive freight railroad system in the world; and

6 WHEREAS, Freight rail has played a critical role in the
7 economic development of the United States, helping to build
8 cities and strengthen infrastructure throughout this great
9 nation; and

10 WHEREAS, Freight rail has been instrumental in bringing
11 American goods to market nationally and internationally since
12 1830; and

13 WHEREAS, One of America's earliest railroads was the
14 Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad, which was completed by the
15 Commonwealth in 1834 as part of the Main Line of Public Works
16 system; and

1 WHEREAS, The first railroad to circumvent the Allegheny
2 Mountains, the Allegheny Portage Railroad, was also completed by
3 the Commonwealth in 1834 as part of the Main Line of Public
4 Works system; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States has approximately 570 freight
6 railroads, including nearly 140,000 miles of track; and

7 WHEREAS, Freight rail carries approximately 40 tons of
8 freight for each person in the United States each year; and

9 WHEREAS, Forty percent of all intercity freight volume is
10 moved by freight rail, including the clothes we wear, the food
11 we eat, the coal we use for domestic energy and the automobiles
12 we drive; and

13 WHEREAS, Freight railroads have nearly doubled the amount of
14 cargo they have shipped over the past three decades with
15 virtually no increase in fuel consumption; and

16 WHEREAS, Freight rail is one of the most fuel-efficient modes
17 of transportation, able to move 1 ton of freight approximately
18 476 miles on 1 gallon of diesel fuel; and

19 WHEREAS, Freight railroads have increased fuel efficiency by
20 more than 100% since 1980; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency
22 finalized a program to reduce emissions from locomotive engines
23 to cut particulate emissions by up to 90% and nitrogen oxide
24 emissions by up to 80%; and

25 WHEREAS, In 2015, United States freight railroads consumed
26 712 million fewer gallons of fuel and emitted 8 million fewer
27 tons of carbon dioxide than they would have if their fuel
28 efficiency had remained constant since 2000; and

29 WHEREAS, From 2000 through 2015, United States freight
30 railroads consumed 6.9 billion fewer gallons of fuel and emitted

1 75 million fewer tons of carbon dioxide than they would have if
2 their fuel efficiency had not improved; and

3 WHEREAS, Moving freight by railroad instead of truck reduces
4 greenhouse gas emissions by 75%; and

5 WHEREAS, The freight rail industry has created well-paying
6 jobs with good benefits, employing approximately 170,000 people
7 nationwide; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 13,000 Pennsylvanians are employed by
9 railroads; and

10 WHEREAS, Freight rail plays a vital role in United States
11 growth, job creation and economic recovery; and

12 WHEREAS, Freight rail growth will continue to generate jobs
13 and be a reliable means of transporting goods; and

14 WHEREAS, The public and private sectors and organized labor
15 have contributed significantly toward the creation of the
16 freight rail infrastructure we use today; and

17 WHEREAS, Freight rail companies have reinvested \$600 billion
18 in revenues toward equipment, maintenance and rail expansion
19 since 1980, which has supported employment and economic activity
20 throughout the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, America's freight railroads in recent years have
22 been reinvesting more than ever before, including more than \$28
23 billion in 2014 and \$30 billion in 2015, to create a freight
24 network that is second to none; and

25 WHEREAS, The freight rail industry has built one of the
26 world's most envied infrastructure networks; and

27 WHEREAS, A strong freight rail system is critical to the
28 economic and environmental well-being of the United States;
29 therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the

1 contributions of the freight rail industry and its employees to
2 the national transportation system; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support the
4 efforts of the freight rail industry and its employees to
5 continue improving safety as our nation moves forward with
6 developing its infrastructure.