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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

## No. 56

Session of  
1981

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INTRODUCED BY GEIST, JOHNSON, HAYES, WASS, GRABOWSKI,  
CALTAGIRONE, WAMBACH, SEVENTY, CESSAR, PHILLIPS, MANMILLER,  
PICCOLA, GRIECO, KENNEDY, RYAN, ITKIN, COWELL, PENDLETON,  
MISCEVICH, PISTELLA, TRELLO, McMONAGLE, BELOFF, WARGO,  
GAMBLE, DAWIDA, MURPHY, DUFFY, MRKONIC, HORGOS, SHUPNIK,  
COCHRAN, McINTYRE, BARBER, PUCCIARELLI, J. D. WILLIAMS AND  
RAPPAPORT, APRIL 22, 1981

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS,  
APRIL 22, 1981

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In the House of Representatives, April 22, 1981

1 WHEREAS, Various officials of the Federal Railway  
2 Administration (FRA) and of the United States Department of  
3 Transportation have released preliminary statements calling for  
4 the dissolution of Conrail within the next few years; and

5 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania General Assembly recognizes that  
6 Conrail provides vital transportation services and is an  
7 integral part of the economy of the Commonwealth and of the  
8 Northeast Region of the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has in past sessions enacted  
10 legislation aimed at assisting Conrail in implementing its  
11 revitalization program; and

12 WHEREAS, Conrail has made a significant investment in  
13 Pennsylvania during the past few years by expending hundreds of  
14 millions of dollars on roadbed improvements and purchases or

1 rehabilitation of rolling stock; and

2 WHEREAS, The dissolution of Conrail may lead to a significant  
3 disruption of rail service, a devaluation of capital investment,  
4 a devastating loss of jobs, a detrimental impact on related  
5 industries and may deal a severe blow to efforts toward economic  
6 recovery and development in the Commonwealth as well as the  
7 entire Northeast Region of the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, The members of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania  
9 join with Federal Government administrators, officials of the  
10 major rail companies, members of Congress and officials from  
11 other states in the Northeast in recognizing that the Federal  
12 Government cannot support Conrail indefinitely and that many  
13 significant changes must be made in the present Conrail system  
14 if it is to become a viable, profitable and efficient entity;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Members of the General Assembly support proposals  
17 that permit Conrail to discontinue commuter services, to reduce  
18 its current physical plant and to revise elements of Federal  
19 legislation concerning Conrail employees; and

20 WHEREAS, Because of the lack of detail in the plans recently  
21 released by the Federal Government it would be premature to  
22 dismiss the option of preserving Conrail; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
24 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize President Ronald  
25 Reagan, members of Congress and more specifically the members of  
26 the Pennsylvania Delegation, officials of the Federal Railway  
27 Administration and the United States Department of  
28 Transportation to permit Conrail to make an orderly transition  
29 from Federal support to a nonsubsidized, efficient and  
30 competitive entity; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That the members of the Pennsylvania General  
2   Assembly implore Federal administrators, union officials,  
3   members of Congress and Conrail management to secure timely  
4   agreement on the changes necessary to fulfill these expressed  
5   goals and to restore the confidence of the citizens of this  
6   Nation.