
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 252 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, GIBBONS, MAHONEY, LONGIETTI, READSHAW,
KOTIK, HENNESSEY, FREEMAN, BAKER, BRIGGS, MURT, KINSEY, KIM,
THOMAS, COHEN, FARINA, SCHLOSSBERG, ROZZI, CALTAGIRONE,
PAYNE, WHEELAND, TALLMAN, MILLARD, SCHWEYER, PASHINSKI,
DONATUCCI, DAVIS, MUSTIO, McNEILL, BROWNLEE, DiGIROLAMO,
A. HARRIS, WATSON, MARSICO, W. KELLER, GILLEN, BENNINGHOFF
AND BRADFORD, APRIL 15, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 15, 2015

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

14 WHEREAS, The first railroad to circumvent the Allegheny
15 Mountains was the Allegheny Portage Railroad, which was also

1 completed by the Commonwealth in 1834 as part of the Main Line
2 of Public Works system; and

3 WHEREAS, Freight rail has been instrumental in bringing
4 American goods to market nationally and internationally since
5 1830; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States freight rail network has over 570
7 railroad companies, includes 140,000 miles of track and carries
8 approximately 40 tons of freight for each person in the United
9 States each year; and

10 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has more operating railroads than any
11 other state in the nation, with over 5,000 miles of track; and

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

16 WHEREAS, Freight railroads have nearly doubled the amount of
17 cargo they have shipped over the past 3 decades with virtually
18 no increase in fuel consumption; and

19 WHEREAS, Freight rail is one of the most fuel-efficient modes
20 of transportation, able to move one ton of freight approximately
21 476 miles on 1 gallon of diesel fuel; and

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

24 WHEREAS, From 1980 through 2013, United States freight
25 railroads consumed 69.8 billion fewer gallons of fuel and
26 emitted 781 million fewer tons of carbon dioxide than they would
27 have if their fuel efficiency had not improved; and

28 WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Agency's new locomotive
29 emissions standards will cut particulate emissions by up to 90%
30 and nitrogen oxide emissions by up to 80%; and

1 WHEREAS, The freight rail industry has created good-paying
2 jobs with good benefits, employing approximately 180,000 people
3 nationwide; and

4 WHEREAS, More than 13,000 Pennsylvanians are employed by
5 railroads; and

6 WHEREAS, Freight rail continues to play a vital role in the
7 United States growth, job creation and economic recovery; and

8 WHEREAS, Freight rail companies have reinvested \$550 billion
9 in revenues toward equipment, maintenance and rail expansion
10 since 1980, which has supported employment and economic activity
11 throughout the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, America's freight railroads in recent years have
13 been reinvesting more than ever before, including more than \$25
14 billion per year in both 2012 and 2013, to create a freight
15 network that is second to none; and

16 WHEREAS, Freight rail growth will continue to generate jobs
17 and produce a reliable means of transporting goods; and

18 WHEREAS, The seven Class I freight railroads have joined the
19 Environmental Protection Agency's "SmartWay Transport," which
20 works to improve fuel efficiency and reduce harmful greenhouse
21 gases; and

22 WHEREAS, Both the public and private sector and organized
23 labor have contributed significantly toward the creation of the
24 freight rail infrastructure we use today; 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 the freight rail industry and its employees have
2 made to 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.