

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 238

WHEREAS, Congress and the new Administration are working to shape federal policy to respond to the nation's economic crisis; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the new Administration are working to stimulate the economy by some of the largest public works investment in 50 years; and

WHEREAS, difficult choices must be made in determining what types of investments to make in the nation's infrastructure in any federal stimulus and recovery act; and

WHEREAS, passenger train service offers some of the best return on investment as expanded and improved passenger train service is not only an environmentally-friendly transportation choice, but a permanent source of economic development by tying together cities and regions and finally a creator of permanent jobs both in the operation of the service and in the maintenance of the trainsets, tracks, and related infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, railroad jobs, whether with Amtrak, the host freight railroads or railroad suppliers are typically good-paying full-time jobs with benefits that usually pay more than the nation's median income; and

WHEREAS, the United States' passenger rail service is far inferior to those of our global competitors due largely to a lack of rigorous federal investment over the last 50 years; and

WHEREAS, recently the federal government has begun to invest in passenger rail and the upcoming debate over American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan is an opportunity to fully invest in passenger rail as part of the Plan:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-fifth General Assembly, First Regular Session, hereby urge Congress and President Barack Obama to maximize the investment in expanded and improved passenger train service as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Missouri Senate urge Congress and President Barack Obama to take full advantage of this opportunity for a full, vigorous federal investment in expanding and improving passenger train service to build the foundation for lasting prosperity with environmentally-friendly connections between cities and towns in the region and the nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for each member of Missouri's congressional delegation and for President Barack Obama.