

By: Staples

S.R. No. 126

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Texas State Railroad, a steam-powered train operated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, provides a unique opportunity for citizens and visitors alike to ride a steam train through the beautiful forest land between Palestine and Rusk and gain firsthand appreciation for the vital role that steam-powered railroads played in Texas history; and

WHEREAS, Transportation was a major problem facing early Texas settlers: Texas rivers were not deep enough for year-round transportation; the scarce roads were virtually impassable during wet weather; and oxcarts could only travel a few miles per day; it was steam-powered railroads that enabled Texas to grow and prosper; and

WHEREAS, Facilitating the transport of iron ore to an East Texas smelter and foundry for conversion to cast iron, the Texas State Railroad helped to make it possible for the present State Capitol to benefit from iron beams in the building's columns and dome when it was completed in 1888; and

WHEREAS, The Texas State Railroad is a symbol of Texas' innovative spirit; like the San Jacinto Monument and the Battleship *Texas*, it is a historic icon; and

WHEREAS, The Texas State Railroad's economic impact is as significant as its historical one; the tourism generated by the railroad's numerous visitors, many of whom have out-of-state and

international origins, contributes greatly to the prosperity of our state, earning the railroad a reputation as one of the largest and most valuable steam train operations in the country; and

WHEREAS, In this year in which we honor the Texas State Railroad for 125 years of service to Texas and 30 years as a state park, it would be very unfortunate not to continue this major tourist attraction beyond 2006; and

WHEREAS, The importance of successfully providing for the continuation of the Texas State Railroad and other state parks requires the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to look for every efficiency in the areas of management, organization, operations, and personnel; and

WHEREAS, Local and state advisory committees have been organized to offer the skills, contacts, and resources of many East Texas and Texas residents who are eager to assist with public education, special events, park promotion, and community advocacy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby direct the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to assist the local and state advisory committees in every way possible to provide for the timely development of a plan that will allow successful continuation of the Texas State Railroad as a moving museum through efficiency and proper utilization of public and private resources; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the secretary of the senate forward

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official copies of this Resolution to the members of the Texas  
Parks and Wildlife Commission.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the  
above Resolution was adopted by  
the Senate on May 14, 2006.

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Secretary of the Senate