

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 860

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Railroad transportation has long played an
2 important role in the development of the Lone Star State, providing
3 important links between the rural and urban areas of our state as
4 well as between Texas and the rest of the country and the continent;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Communities, regardless of size, depend on viable
7 transportation options to ship and receive raw materials,
8 manufactured goods, and agricultural products, thereby supporting
9 area businesses, industries, development efforts, and jobs; and

10 WHEREAS, Businesses and industries require dependable and
11 competitive local rail service when considering new locations; the
12 growth of international commerce from the North American Free Trade
13 Agreement and the increasing trade beyond the borders of North
14 America place additional demands on our state's transportation
15 network, requiring that transportation options reach across
16 regions, state lines, and international borders; and

17 WHEREAS, It is in the interest of all citizens of the state
18 that existing rail systems be maintained and enhanced for the most
19 efficient and economical movement of essential agricultural and
20 manufactured products to and from areas of production in local,
21 national, and international markets; and

22 WHEREAS, Texas communities of all sizes must act to ensure
23 that this increased commercial traffic benefits their local areas,
24 that jobs are created and maintained to support and take advantage

1 of the state's rail service, and that rail service is a benefit to
2 all sectors of their community and not a burden; and

3 WHEREAS, To that end, the Texas Legislature enables county
4 governments to create Rural Rail Transportation Districts that
5 allow local communities to address rail transportation concerns
6 with local input, local control, and local accountability; and

7 WHEREAS, Activities by the Rural Rail Transportation
8 Districts have resulted in saving hundreds of miles of rail likely
9 to be abandoned, planning new rail lines to relocate rail traffic
10 out of congested metropolitan areas in order to safeguard the
11 health and safety of Texans, and initiating projects to benefit
12 existing local industry and to recruit new industry; working
13 together in regional efforts to develop and utilize rail
14 transportation assets owned by the people of the State of Texas, the
15 districts also work closely with the Texas Department of
16 Transportation and other state agencies; moreover, they have
17 planned vital new rail connections between our state and Mexico and
18 established important ties with counterpart agencies and states in
19 Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, With initiatives that assist local economic
21 development efforts, build new infrastructure and industrial
22 facilities, recruit new industry, create new jobs, and alleviate
23 rail problems, the Rural Rail Transportation Districts are striving
24 to meet their important mission of enhancing mobility and commerce
25 in our state both now and in the future; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
27 Legislature hereby commend the locally created and controlled Rural

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1 Rail Transportation Districts for the vital role that they play in
2 developing, maintaining, and improving rail transportation assets
3 in our state and encourage those districts to continue to pursue
4 their worthy efforts.