

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 452

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Texas communities of all sizes must act to ensure that this increased commercial traffic benefits their local areas, that jobs are created and maintained to support and take advantage of the state's rail service, and that rail service is a benefit to all sectors of their community and not a burden; and

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby commend the locally created and controlled Rural Rail Transportation Districts for the vital role that they play in developing, maintaining, and improving rail transportation assets in our state and encourage those districts to continue to pursue their worthy efforts.

Seliger

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 23, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate