

MARYLAND ENDORSEMENT

RAIL Solution is petitioning Maryland's Federal representatives to sponsor legislation to fund a comprehensive study of the proposed "Steel Interstate" rail system pilot project between Knoxville, TN, and Harrisburg, PA, as a part of a National Steel Interstate System that would bring fast rail freight and passenger service to the nation. Your endorsement as a Maryland elected official can help and is respectfully requested.

To the Honorable:

Barbara Mikulski, U.S. Senator from Maryland
Benjamin L Cardin, U.S. Senator from Maryland
Donna Edwards, Member of Congress, MD-4

Roscoe Bartlett, Member of Congress, MD-6
Elijah Cummings, Member of Congress, MD-7

WHEREAS Europe approaches numerous 21st Century "Steel Interstate" rail service concepts, no rail service in the United States offers this promise, exposing our nation to greater risk from petroleum depletion, cost increases, supply interruptions and economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS Steel Interstate rail provides reduced dependence on imported fuel, builds modal redundancy, enhances national security, and—when electrified—offers the U.S. opportunity to employ domestic renewable energy sources and efficiency to drive transportation; and

WHEREAS Steel Interstate rail demonstrates vastly greater transportation throughput productivity over equivalent investment in costly interstate highway expansion; and

WHEREAS Steel Interstate technology offers positive advantages for communities, Maryland, other I-81 states, and the United States relating to cost, safety, economic growth, tourism development, decreased fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, improved air quality and public health, varied freight and passenger service options, reduced financing and carbon cap and trade risk exposure; and

WHEREAS, since January, 2009, forty-three Virginia and eleven Tennessee governing bodies* have voted in favor of this petition; and

WHEREAS no passenger rail and limited public bus service exists in this Corridor south of Staunton/Clifton Forge, west of Lynchburg/Danville, or north of Atlanta/Birmingham, despite efforts by dozens of local governing bodies and private groups in Virginia and Tennessee to restore passenger rail service; and

WHEREAS Congress is considering investments in transportation, energy efficiency, fuel conservation, renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement, and infrastructure as fiscal stimulus for the nation, and the Steel Interstate offers outstanding opportunity in all these areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, as an elected representative/senator, serving Maryland's _____ District, I respectfully request the Maryland congressional delegation to work in concert with representatives of other I-81 Corridor states to sponsor and secure passage of a Federal transportation demonstration grant to assemble in the I-81 Corridor between Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Knoxville, Tennessee, the pilot segment of 21st Century rail, the North American Steel Interstate System.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2009. _____
(Day) (Month) (Signature)

* **Virginia** bodies: Abingdon, Allegheny Co., Blacksburg, Botetourt Co., Bristol, Bristol Urban Area MPO, Buena Vista, Christiansburg, Clarke Co., Craig Co., Damascus, Edinburg, Floyd Co., Franklin Co., Glade Spring, Giles Co., Harrisonburg, Lexington, Marion, Mount Rogers PDC., New Market, New River Valley PDC, Pulaski, Pulaski Co., Radford, Roanoke, Roanoke Co., Roanoke Valley-Allegheny Regional Commission, Roanoke Valley MPO, Rockbridge Co., Russell Co., Russell Co. IDA, Salem, Scott Co., Scott Co. IDA, Shenandoah Co., Smyth Co., Staunton, Vinton, Warren Co., Washington Co., Wythe Co., Wytheville. **Tennessee** bodies: Alcoa, Athens, Bristol, Bristol Urban MPO, Farragut, Jonesborough, Kingsport, Kingston, Unicoi, Washington Co., and White Pine.