

## Pennsylvania Endorsement

**RAIL Solution is petitioning Pennsylvania'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 Pennsylvania elected official can help and is respectfully requested.**

To the Honorable:

Arlen Specter, United States Senator-PA  
Robert P. Casey, Jr., United States Senator-PA  
Jason Altmire, Member of Congress, PA-4  
Jim Gerlach, Member of Congress, PA-6  
Bill Shuster, Member of Congress, PA-9

Christopher Carney, Member of Congress, PA-10  
Charles Dent, Member of Congress, PA-15  
Tim Holden, Member of Congress, PA-17  
Todd Russell Platts, Member of Congress, PA-19

**WHEREAS** Europe approaches numerous 21<sup>st</sup> 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, the Commonwealth, 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 north-south passenger rail and limited public bus service exists in this Corridor north of Atlanta/Birmingham, despite efforts by dozens of local governing bodies and private groups 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 Pennsylvania's \_\_\_\_\_ District**, I respectfully request Pennsylvania's 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 Knoxville, Tennessee and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the pilot segment of 21<sup>st</sup> Century rail, the North American Steel Interstate System.

Signed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Day) (Month) (Signature)

\* **Virginia** bodies: Abingdon, Alleghany 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.