

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

## A RESOLUTION

### **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**

**WHEREAS**, Congress is considering investments in transportation, public health, renewable energy, energy efficiency, fuel conservation, greenhouse gas abatement, and public infrastructure as fiscal stimulus, and a National Steel Interstate rail system will promote all these goals, and

**WHEREAS**, Steel Interstate rail service would reduce Interstate truck traffic and dependence on imported oil, while enhancing safety, national security, and economic competitiveness, and

**WHEREAS**, a Steel Interstate System offers the nation greater transportation productivity at lower cost compared to equivalent interstate highway expansion, and

**WHEREAS**, today, no passenger rail service, diminishing airline service, and limited intercity public bus service exists within the I-81 corridor and surrounding region but Steel Interstate service allows for harmonious fast passenger and freight operation, and

**WHEREAS**, Steel Interstate technology offers positive advantages for communities, Maryland, other Interstate 81 states, and the United States relating to cost, safety, economic growth, tourism development, and varied freight and passenger service options, and

**WHEREAS**, when electrified, the Steel Interstate System offers the U.S. opportunity to employ domestic, renewable energy sources and efficiency to drive transportation, and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, urgently petition our congressional delegation to work in concert with other I-81 Corridor representatives to sponsor and secure funding for a comprehensive study for the pilot segment (between Knoxville and Harrisburg) of a National Steel Interstate System.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the \_\_\_\_\_ asserts that the following should be included in the comprehensive study: 1) user surveys to identify attractive and cost-effective services to divert the most truckloads to rail and of potential passengers in this corridor, based on 79 MPH track speeds; 2) engineering and design to determine required infrastructure improvements, options, costs, and speed improvement potential; 3) determination of appropriate environmental permitting; 4) exploration of financing, repayment, ownership and partnership scenarios; and 5) review of appropriate state/federal/private or other cooperative agreements.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the \_\_\_\_\_ strongly urges the Norfolk-Southern Corporation, as owner of the current rail right-of-way and provider of rail service in the I-81 corridor, to support and participate in the undertaking of the comprehensive study.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

Seal affixed.

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman/Chairwoman/Mayor