A RESOLUTION

Petitioning Virginia's Federal representatives to sponsor a grant for building a model 21st Century rail *Steel Interstate* service in the I-81 Corridor to demonstrate fast rail freight and passenger service potential to the nation.

To the Honorable:

Jim Webb, United States Senator from Virginia
Mark Warner, United States Senator from Virginia
Bob Goodlatte, Member of Congress, VA-6
Rick Boucher, Member of Congress, VA-9
Frank Wolf, Member of Congress, VA-10

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, 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 forty-nine Virginia and four Tennessee governing bodies* have previously voted support for improved rail service over massive widening of I-81; 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 the Commonwealth to restore passenger rail service through the Trans Dominion Express; 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, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the City Council of the City of Radford, urgently petition our 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 21st Century rail, the North American Steel Interstate System.

Signed this 23rd day of February, 2009.

Thomas P. Stolz

Mayor, City of Radford

---

* **Virginia** bodies: Abingdon, Albemarle Co., Augusta Co., Blacksburg, Blacksburg/Christiansburg/Montgomery Area M.P.O., Botetourt Co., Bristol, Buena Vista, Clarke Co., Clifton Forge, Covington, Craig Co., Edinburg, Floyd Co., Frederick Co., Front Royal, Glade Spring, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Marion, Montgomery Co., Mount Jackson, Mount Rogers P.D.C., New Market, Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission, Page Co., Pulaski, Radford, Roanoke, Roanoke Co., Roanoke Valley-Allegheny Regional Commission, Rockbridge Co., Rockingham Co., Salem, Saltville, Scott Co., Scott Co. Industrial Development Authority, Shenandoah Co., Smyth Co., Staunton, Stephens City, Toms Brook, Vinton, Warren Co., Washington Co., Winchester, Winchester-Frederick Co. M.P.O., Wythe Co., Wytheville. **Tennessee** bodies: Bristol, Jonesborough, Kingsport, and Knoxville.