

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, There are almost 6,000 transit agencies in the
3 United States, including 70 transit providers in Illinois;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In 2000, Illinois public transit provided over
6 600 million rides; and

7 WHEREAS, The Department of Energy estimates that 13% of
8 the 91,600,000 United States households do not own any means
9 of personal transportation, and thus millions of Americans
10 are dependent upon transit, including those individuals with
11 low incomes, the disabled, the elderly, and children; and

12 WHEREAS, Automobiles consume 21% of this country's
13 energy, and transportation accounts for 27% of greenhouse
14 emissions; transit uses less than 1% of all energy consumed
15 in this country and is a cost-effective way of reducing
16 harmful emissions; and

17 WHEREAS, Transit provides mobility during crisis, such as
18 earthquakes, snow and ice storms, and other national
19 emergencies; and

20 WHEREAS, Public transit is critical to workforce
21 development, health care, and education access; and

22 WHEREAS, Congestion now costs the Chicago Metropolitan
23 Area \$4,000,000,000 per year -- \$1,472 per commuter -- in
24 lost productivity, fuel, and insurance costs; and

25 WHEREAS, Quality public transit in Illinois would support
26 working families and businesses by providing effective
27 options for connecting workers to jobs and by reducing
28 traffic congestion, which would reduce the air pollution that
29 has contributed to skyrocketing asthma rates; and

30 WHEREAS, Public transportation is equally important to

1 rural communities throughout the country, where 40% of
2 residents have no access to public transit services and
3 another 28% have negligible access; and

4 WHEREAS, Effective and efficient public transit systems
5 are essential for improved regional mobility and sound local
6 and state economies; and

7 WHEREAS, Illinois' transit systems have significant
8 capital needs that have traditionally been supported by
9 crucial federal investment; and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois ranks 50th of the 50 states and the
11 District of Columbia in federal contribution for operating
12 support for transit; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-
14 SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
15 urge the United States Congress to fully fund the transit
16 accounts in TEA-21; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we call upon the Congress and the
18 Administration to strongly support any proposals to increase
19 the level of funding for public transportation in the
20 reauthorization of TEA-21 in 2003.