

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Amtrak was established in 1971 by the Rail  
3 Passenger Service Act of 1970; and

4 WHEREAS, The Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act, passed  
5 unanimously in 1997, requires that Amtrak become  
6 operationally self-sufficient by December 2, 2002; and

7 WHEREAS, A combination of accumulated operating deficits,  
8 cash shortages, management inefficiencies, and delay in full  
9 implementation of Acela Express service have created a fiscal  
10 emergency at Amtrak, with growing and substantial debt  
11 obligations totaling over \$3.3 billion; and

12 WHEREAS, The Amtrak Reform Council has found that Amtrak  
13 will not be operationally self-sufficient by December 2,  
14 2002, as required by law, citing major inherent flaws and  
15 weaknesses in Amtrak's institutional design; and

16 WHEREAS, The Department of Transportation Inspector  
17 General Report on the 2001 Assessment of Amtrak's Financial  
18 Performance and Requirements found that Amtrak suffered  
19 operating losses of \$1.1 billion, the largest in Amtrak's  
20 history, and that Amtrak is no closer to operating  
21 self-sufficiency now than it was in 1997; and

22 WHEREAS, The nation should be afforded the opportunity to  
23 receive safe, efficient and cost-effective rail passenger  
24 service; and

25 WHEREAS, The current federal formula for transportation  
26 funding is heavily skewed towards highways and airports with  
27 less than 1% directed at rail passenger service, creating  
28 highway and airport congestion and perpetuating an unbalanced  
29 transportation system that is vulnerable to emergencies, high  
30 traffic volumes, and temporary disruptions; and

1           WHEREAS, Amtrak currently serves over 500 communities  
2 across the country, provides energy-efficient mobility, uses  
3 38% less energy per passenger mile than travel by commercial  
4 airlines, can reduce congestion which currently costs the  
5 U.S. economy \$100 billion annually, and can further reduce  
6 U.S. dependence on imported foreign oil; therefore be it

7           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
8 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,  
9 that we urge the Congress of the United States to pass  
10 S.1958, the Rail Passenger Service Improvement Act, to  
11 eliminate budget deficits and cash shortages of Amtrak  
12 through visionary financial planning, sound budgeting,  
13 accurate revenue forecasts, and careful spending and to  
14 ensure the most efficient and cost effective rail passenger  
15 service by Amtrak during a period of fiscal emergency; and be  
16 it further

17           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this Resolution be  
18 presented to each member of the U.S. Illinois Congressional  
19 delegation.