



1995 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 22

February 14, 1995 - Introduced by Representatives R. YOUNG, BALDWIN, L. YOUNG, OURADA, HAHN, BALDUS, PLACHE, BOYLE, HASENOHRL, WIRCH, URBAN, R. POTTER, GUNDERSON, WASSERMAN and BOCK, cosponsored by Senators RUDE, CHVALA, PETAK, MOORE, BRESKE, BURKE, CLAUSING, PLEWA and ANDREA. Referred to Special committee on State-Federal Relations.

1 **Relating to:** memorializing Congress to support Amtrak and rail passenger
2 transportation.

3 Whereas, Amtrak, the national railroad passenger corporation, is energy
4 efficient and environmentally beneficial, consuming about half as much energy per
5 passenger-mile as airlines and causing less air pollution; and

6 Whereas, Amtrak provides mobility to citizens of many smaller communities
7 poorly served by air and bus services, as well as to those who need trains as a travel
8 option, such as senior citizens, disabled people, students and persons with medical
9 conditions preventing them from flying; and

10 Whereas, Amtrak is 9 times safer than driving on a passenger-mile basis, and
11 operates even in severe weather conditions; and

12 Whereas, Amtrak travel rose 48% from 1982 to 1993 and Amtrak dramatically
13 improved coverage of its operating costs from revenues; and

14 Whereas, expansion of Amtrak service by using existing rail rights-of-way
15 would cost less and use less land than new highways and airports, and would further
16 increase Amtrak's energy-efficiency advantage; and

1 Whereas, federal investment in Amtrak has fallen in the last decade while
2 federal investment in airports and highways has risen; and

3 Whereas, states may use highway trust fund moneys as an 80% federal match
4 for a variety of nonhighway programs, but states are prohibited from using such
5 moneys for Amtrak projects; and

6 Whereas, Amtrak pays a fuel tax that airlines do not currently pay; and

7 Whereas, Amtrak workers and vendors pay more in taxes than the federal
8 government invests in Amtrak; now, therefore, be it

9 ***Resolved by the assembly, the Senate concurring, That*** the members of the
10 legislature of the state of Wisconsin urge President Clinton and Congress to ensure
11 that federal funding of Amtrak is not reduced; that Amtrak is exempted from paying
12 any fuel taxes that airlines do not pay; that states are given the flexibility to use
13 federal highway trust fund moneys on Amtrak projects, if they so choose; and that
14 a strong Amtrak system is included by federal officials in any plans for a national
15 transportation system; and, be it further

16 ***Resolved, That*** the chief clerk of the assembly shall provide a copy of this joint
17 resolution to President Clinton, the president of the U.S. senate, to the speaker of the
18 U.S. house of representatives and to each member of the congressional delegation
19 from this state.

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(END)