

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

HR 1024

4
5 By: Representative Carroll
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8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

9 RECOMMENDING THAT CONGRESS AND THE ARKANSAS
10 CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION SUPPORT INCREASED
11 FREIGHT RAIL HAULING CAPACITY.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 RECOMMENDING THAT CONGRESS AND THE
15 ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
16 SUPPORT INCREASED FREIGHT RAIL HAULING
17 CAPACITY.
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20 WHEREAS, state and federal transportation officials and others project
21 that the United States freight volume will increase by more than sixty-seven
22 percent (67%) over the next twenty (20) years; and
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24 WHEREAS, the nation's highways are already stretched to capacity; and
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26 WHEREAS, the efficient movement of goods is directly related to the
27 strength of a nation's economy and its citizens' quality of life; and
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29 WHEREAS, public policies promoting increased investment in freight rail
30 infrastructure would result in increased freight rail hauling capacity; and
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32 WHEREAS, expansion of freight rail hauling capacity would yield
33 impressive public benefits by relieving worsening congestion, reducing
34 highway costs, providing a critical intermodal link to international trade,
35 and improving air quality and fuel efficiency; and
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1 WHEREAS, relatively modest public investments in freight rail
2 infrastructure would yield an impressive return on investment in the form of
3 savings to motorists, businesses, and taxpayers; and

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5 WHEREAS, bipartisan legislation was recently introduced in the United
6 States Congress that would create tax incentives to increase investment in
7 freight rail infrastructure; and

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9 WHEREAS, this legislation is the type of proposal that the American
10 Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials says is needed to
11 accommodate increasing freight volume and realize the public benefits that
12 come from shipping more freight by rail; and

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14 WHEREAS, the United States Congress is considering proposals that would
15 reinstitute regulation of freight railroads, and these proposals would turn
16 back the clock on the successes of deregulation, devastating the railroads
17 and freight transportation in this country,

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19 WEHREAS, Growth Options for the 21st Century (Go21), a nonprofit, public
20 interest organization that is dedicated to improving the quality of life for
21 all Americans and building a stronger economy by promoting increased use of
22 freight rail transportation, is advocating at the state and federal level for
23 the principles and policies set forth in this resolution,

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25 NOW THEREFORE,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH GENERAL
27 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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29 That it endorses the Growth Options for the 21st Century (Go21) mission
30 of building a stronger economy, reducing highway congestion, improving air
31 quality, using tax dollars more efficiently, and improving quality of life by
32 advocating for increased use of freight rail transportation; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it endorses federal investment tax
35 incentives to increase freight rail hauling capacity and opposes any effort
36 to reinstitute regulation of freight railroads.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it recommends to the United States Congress and the Arkansas Congressional Delegation that the Growth Options for the 21st Century (Go21) mission to increase the use of freight rail transportation should be supported by providing federal funding and changes to federal law to support increased freight rail hauling capacity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the presiding officers of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives and each member of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation.