

No. R-242. House concurrent resolution commemorating National Train Day 2011 and the 40th anniversary of Amtrak.

(H.C.R.193)

Offered by: Representatives Font-Russell of Rutland City, Bohi of Hartford, Acinapura of Brandon, Andrews of Rutland City, Aswad of Burlington, Atkins of Winooski, Botzow of Pownal, Brennan of Colchester, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Buxton of Royalton, Campion of Bennington, Canfield of Fair Haven, Cheney of Norwich, Christie of Hartford, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Corcoran of Bennington, Courcelle of Rutland City, Dakin of Chester, Davis of Washington, Deen of Westminster, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donaghy of Poultney, Donovan of Burlington, Edwards of Brattleboro, Ellis of Waterbury, Fagan of Rutland City, French of Shrewsbury, Head of South Burlington, Helm of Fair Haven, Hooper of Montpelier, Howrigan of Fairfield, Jewett of Ripton, Keenan of St. Albans City, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Kupersmith of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Larson of Burlington, Lenes of Shelburne, Leriche of Hardwick, Lippert of Hinesburg, Lorber of Burlington, Malcolm of Pawlet, Martin of Springfield, Masland of Thetford, Mitchell of Barnard, Mook of Bennington, Munger of South Burlington, Nuovo of Middlebury, Olsen of Jamaica, Partridge of Windham, Pearson of Burlington, Potter of Clarendon, Ralston of Middlebury, Ram of Burlington, Shand of Weathersfield, Shaw of Pittsford, Stevens of Waterbury, Stevens of Shoreham, Stuart of Brattleboro, Trieber of Rockingham, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne, Wilson of Manchester, Wizowaty of Burlington and Wright of Burlington

Whereas, the Rutland and Burlington Railroad, Vermont's first railroad, was opened in 1849, and

Whereas, the transportation of freight by rail rather than truck has many environmental benefits, as it on average produces two-thirds the pollution, one-half the noise level, just 23 percent as much greenhouse gas, and uses only 29 percent as much fuel, and in Vermont the freight rail network consists of lines on which a number of railroad companies operate, and

Whereas, an important transportation-related environmental benefit will be realized in 2014 when the recently established Otter Creek Railroad completes

the new Middlebury spur from the Vermont Railway main line to Omya's quarry and several other industries, resulting in 70,000 fewer trucks a year on Route 7, and

Whereas, more immediately, a public-private partnership involving \$52.7 million of federal funds and \$20 million from Rail America (the operator of New England Central Railroad) is improving the track between St. Albans and Springfield, Mass. (Amtrak's Vermonter route) so that trains will be able to reach speeds of 79 miles per hour south of White River Junction and heavier freight loads will be possible north of that point, and

Whereas, Vermont has filed a new application for federal funding for capital improvements that would enable passenger train service to resume between Rutland and Burlington, and

Whereas, nationally, Amtrak, which in 2011 celebrates its 40th anniversary, has recently announced that in March 2011 it marked its 17th consecutive month of year-over-year ridership growth, and since 2000 ridership growth has increased over 36 percent, and

Whereas, Vermont realizes tourism revenue from the excursion trips of the Green Mountain Railroad including those of the White River Flyer, and

Whereas, May 7, 2011 is being observed across the country as the fourth annual National Train Day in honor of the vital role of railroads in American transportation, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates National Train Day 2011 and the 40th anniversary of Amtrak, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Rail Action Network, to Secretary of Transportation Brian Searles, to Governor Peter Shumlin, to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.