

**No. R-341. House concurrent resolution urging the restoration of intercity bus service to Rutland City.**

(H.C.R.255)

Offered by: Representatives Russell of Rutland City, Acinapura of Brandon, Andrews of Rutland City, Canfield of Fair Haven, Courcelle of Rutland City, Donaghy of Poultney, Eckhardt of Chittenden, Fagan of Rutland City, French of Shrewsbury, Helm of Fair Haven, Malcolm of Pawlet, McNeil of Rutland Town, Potter of Clarendon and Shaw of Pittsford

Offered by: Senators Carris, Flory and Mullin

Whereas, Rutland City, the second largest city in Vermont, has confronted transportation challenges for many years, as have many other communities in Vermont, and

Whereas, unlike Burlington, the state's largest city to the north, Rutland City lacks immediate access to the nation's interstate highway system, and highway passage to the east is especially challenging in the wintertime across Route 4, which winds on an upward path through the Green Mountains, and

Whereas, intercity Amtrak connections are limited to the Ethan Allen Express, featuring a single inbound and outbound Amtrak train each day, and

Whereas, air service is restricted to the three daily flights between Southern Vermont Regional Airport and Boston, Massachusetts, and

Whereas, although Marble Valley Regional Transit District provides bus service within Rutland City and to Fair Haven, Manchester, and Middlebury, none is offered beyond these locations, and

Whereas, for many years, Vermont Transit (which operated as a subsidiary of Greyhound Lines Inc. from the 1970s until 2008) provided intercity bus

service from Rutland north to Burlington, south to Albany, New York, and east to White River Junction, with connections from these destinations to points across the United States and Canada, and

Whereas, the Albany–Burlington route, an important service along Vermont’s western corridor, was terminated in 2005, and

Whereas, the remaining two-way service from White River Junction to Rutland took to the highway for the final time in 2008, and

Whereas, the lack of even limited intercity bus service for over three years has deprived Rutland area residents of the most affordable means of long distance transportation, and presents a hurdle for travelers attempting to reach the Rutland area, and

Whereas, Rutland boasts a state-of-the-art multi-modal transit center that could readily accommodate additional bus traffic and passengers, and

Whereas, the discontinuance or lack of intercity bus service is a problem statewide, and the agency of transportation is currently undertaking a study of intercity bus needs in the state and funding priorities for the establishment of new intercity bus lines, and

Whereas, the restoration of at least limited intercity bus service would be a welcome transportation option for Rutland residents and for residents of the state as a whole, and would prove economically beneficial for the Rutland area and the state, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges the agency of transportation to complete expeditiously its study of intercity bus needs and funding priorities, and urges the restoration of intercity bus service to and from Rutland and the provision of intercity bus service to and from other communities with demonstrated intercity transportation needs, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to David Leach, president and chief executive officer, Greyhound Lines Inc., Dallas, Texas; Randall Charlebois, general manager and vice president, Premier Coach Company, Inc., Milton, Vermont; Jeff Adams, director of marketing, Yankee Trails World Travel, Rensselaer, New York; Eric Chatier, manager, Dartmouth Coach, Concord, New Hampshire; Peter A. Picknelly, president and chief executive officer, Peter Pan Bus Lines Inc., Springfield, Massachusetts; John Sharrow, manager, Mountain Transit Inc, Milton, Vermont; Harry Blunt Jr., president, Concord Coach Lines, Concord, New Hampshire; and Brian Searles, Vermont secretary of transportation.