

State of Vermont
House of Representatives
Montpelier, Vermont



House Resolution

H.R. 18

House resolution relating to passenger rail service to Montreal

Offered by: Representatives Bissonnette of Winooski, Russell of Rutland City, Brennan of Colchester, Browning of Arlington, Carr of Brandon, Connor of Fairfield, Consejo of Sheldon, Corcoran of Bennington, Fisher of Lincoln, Gallivan of Chittenden, Jerman of Essex, Lanpher of Vergennes, McCarthy of St. Albans City, Potter of Clarendon, and Ralston of Middlebury

Whereas, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Vermont Agency of Transportation, with support from the Federal Railroad Administration and in collaboration with the Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Ministère des Transports Quebec, have undertaken the Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative, which includes a detailed study of intercity rail service opportunities between Boston and Montreal, known as the Boston-to-Montreal Route, and

Whereas, the Boston-to-Montreal Route would run from Boston to Springfield, then north to Vermont into White River Junction, then northwest to Essex Junction, then north through St. Albans to the Canadian border at Alburg, and then to Montreal's Central Station, and

Whereas, critical to the potential success of the Boston-to-Montreal Route is a seamless crossing of the U.S.–Canada border authorized through a preclearance agreement between the United States and Canada to enable clearance of customs at Montreal's Central Station rather than at the border, and

Whereas, on February 4, 2011, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and President Barack Obama announced the Beyond the Border Declaration and launched the Canada–United States Regulatory Cooperation Council, and

Whereas, the Beyond the Border Action Plan outlines specific initiatives that include negotiating a new preclearance agreement for land, rail, and marine modes, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body urges the Vermont Congressional Delegation to encourage the Administration of President Barack Obama to complete negotiations with Canada and finalize a preclearance agreement for rail that will enable clearance of Boston-to-Montreal Route passengers at Montreal's Central Station, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Administrator Joseph C. Szabo of the Federal Railroad Administration, Director of Rail Policy Carolyn Crook of Transport Canada, the Vermont Congressional Delegation, Minister of Transport Sylvain Gaudreault of Transports Quebec, Commissioner James P. Redeker of the Connecticut Department of Transportation, Secretary and Chief Executive Officer Richard A. Davey of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and Secretary Brian Searles of the Vermont Agency of Transportation.