

**No. R-407. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont Agency of Transportation on receiving a \$10 million federal Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery grant to help complete the western rail corridor from Rutland to Burlington.**

(H.C.R.318)

Offered by: Representatives Russell of Rutland City, Baser of Bristol, Bissonnette of Winooski, Brennan of Colchester, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Cole of Burlington, Corcoran of Bennington, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dakin of Colchester, Devereux of Mount Holly, Donovan of Burlington, Eastman of Orwell, Evans of Essex, Fagan of Rutland City, Frank of Underhill, Gage of Rutland City, Gonzalez of Winooski, Head of South Burlington, Helm of Fair Haven, Jerman of Essex, Keenan of St. Albans City, Krowinski of Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lenes of Shelburne, McCormack of Burlington, McCoy of Poultney, Nuovo of Middlebury, Pearson of Burlington, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Shaw of Pittsford, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sullivan of Burlington, Terenzini of Rutland Town, Webb of Shelburne, Wright of Burlington, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Flory, and Mullin

Whereas, passenger rail service between Rutland and Burlington was halted in 1953, and in recent years, interest has existed in restoring this transportation service, and

Whereas, a prerequisite for Amtrak to extend the existing Ethan Allen train from its current terminus in Rutland north to Burlington is the installation of welded rail along the entire 67-mile distance, and

Whereas, the incremental progress towards implementing this infrastructure improvement has left only 11 miles of track updating to complete, and

Whereas, the projected cost to finish all required aspects of the project is \$26 million, including the construction of station platforms, and

Whereas, the Vermont Agency of Transportation applied for a \$12 million federal Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant to move the project towards conclusion, and

Whereas, in the fall of 2015, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded Vermont a \$10 million TIGER grant, and

Whereas, although short of the requested sum, securing the \$10 million TIGER grant is a major step towards arranging for the balance of the needed monies, and

Whereas, the hope for completing the financing package includes utilizing \$3 million in federal highway funds to address road crossing problems and \$13 million in additional State funds, and

Whereas, although the inauguration of the extended Ethan Allen service is still several years in the future, State transportation officials and rail enthusiasts celebrated this important milestone in the restoration of intercity passenger rail service to Vermont's Queen City, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulating the Vermont Agency of Transportation on receiving a \$10 million federal Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery grant to help complete the western rail corridor from Rutland to Burlington, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Transportation and the Vermont Rail Action Network.