

RESOLUTION NO. 3-2009

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA, ENDORSING FEDERAL INVESTMENT TAX INCENTIVES TO INCREASE FREIGHT RAIL HAULING CAPACITY AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF LETTERS TO STATE REPRESENTATIVES ADVOCATING THE CITY'S ENDORSEMENT.

WHEREAS, state and federal transportation officials and others project that United States freight volumes will increase by more than 67 percent over twenty years; and

WHEREAS, the nation's highways are already stretched to capacity; and

WHEREAS, the efficient movement of goods is directly related to the strength of a nation's economy and its citizens' quality of life; and

WHEREAS, public policies promoting increased investment in freight rail infrastructure would result in increased freight rail hauling capacity; and

WHEREAS, expansion of freight rail hauling capacity would yield impressive public benefits by relieving worsening congestion, reducing highway costs, providing a critical intermodal link to international trade and improving air quality and fuel efficiency; and

WHEREAS, relatively modest public investments in freight rail infrastructure would yield an impressive return on investment in the form of savings to motorists, businesses, and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, non-partisan legislation was recently introduced in Congress that would create tax incentives to increase investment in freight rail infrastructure; and

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

WHEREAS, Congress is considering proposals that would re-regulate freight railroads and these proposals would turn back the clock on the successes of deregulation, devastating the railroads and freight transportation in this country; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson have drafted letters to certain state representatives, attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by reference, advocating the City's endorsement of increased freight rail hauling capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson have reviewed the letters attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and find that executing and mailing the letters is in the best interests of the City and its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, that the City endorses the Go21 mission of building a stronger economy, reducing highway congestion, improving air quality, using tax dollars more efficiently, and improving quality of life by advocating for increased use of freight rail transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Benson endorses federal investment tax incentives to increase freight rail hauling capacity and opposes any effort to re-regulate freight railroads.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Benson approves and authorizes the execution and mailing of the letters attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA, this 12th day of January, 2009.

MARK M. FENN, Mayor

ATTEST:

VICKI L. VIVIAN, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

THOMAS A. BENAVIDEZ, City Attorney

TABLED

Exhibit "A"
[Letters to State Representatives]

TABLED

January 13, 2008

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator McCain:

I represent the City of Benson, Arizona. Our city is conveniently located at I-10, SR-80, and SR-90. This transportation nexus means Benson has a consistent and increasing volume of freight passing over our highways. Congestion and gridlock make it more difficult to improve transit services and detract from the quality of life we strive for in southeastern Arizona. We also care about the environment and energy. We look for alternatives and technology that is environmentally friendly. We support freight rail as one segment in the transportation mix that can help in the solution to our area's congestion – which will only worsen as trace volumes predictably increase.

When it comes to goods movement, currently, trains are the most fuel-efficient form of ground transportation. Freight trains are three or more times more fuel efficient than trucks. If just 10 percent of the freight that is currently moved by truck were diverted to rail instead, fuel savings would exceed one billion gallons per year! One train can remove 280 trucks from our highways.

A bill currently in Congress would shrink hauling capacity by re-regulating the railroads. State transportation officials make it clear in the *Freight Rail Bottom Line Report* that decreasing rail-hauling capacity is a step backward and will harm our national economy. I ask that you please do not support H.R. 2125.

As Arizona and the nation experience a tremendous rise in overall freight traffic, we need to identify the problems and seek solutions. Help us avoid further congestion! Expanding freight rail can save us time and fuel, improve the air quality and stimulate the economy. Increasing public investment in freight rail will help build a more efficient goods movement system so I'm asking you to cosponsor the bipartisan H.R. 2116. This tax credit (25% to any business investing to increase freight rail hauling capacity) is a forward step and will help our national economy.

Sincerely,

Benson City Council

January 13, 2008

The Honorable Jon Kyle
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Kyle:

I represent the City of Benson, Arizona. Our city is conveniently located at I-10, SR-80, and SR-90. This transportation nexus means Benson has a consistent and increasing volume of freight passing over our highways. Congestion and gridlock make it more difficult to improve transit services and detract from the quality of life we strive for in southeastern Arizona. We also care about the environment and safety. We look for alternatives and technology that is environmentally friendly. We support freight rail as one segment in the transportation mix that can help in the solution to our area's congestion – which will only worsen as trace volumes predictably increase.

When it comes to goods movement, currently, trains are the most fuel efficient form of ground transportation. Freight trains are three or more times more fuel efficient than trucks. If just 10 percent of the freight that is currently moved by truck were diverted to rail instead, fuel savings would exceed one billion gallons per year! One train can remove 280 trucks from our highways.

A bill currently in Congress would shrink hauling capacity by re-regulating the railroads. State transportation officials make a case in the *Freight Rail Bottom Line Report* that decreasing rail-hauling capacity is a step backward and will harm our national economy. I ask that you please do not support H.R. 2116.

As Arizona and the nation experience a tremendous rise in overall freight traffic, we need to identify the problems and seek solutions. Help us avoid further congestion! Expanding freight rail can save us time and fuel, improve the air quality and stimulate the economy. Increasing public investment in freight rail will help build a more efficient goods movement system so I'm asking you to cosponsor the bipartisan H.R. 2116. This tax credit (25% to any business investing to increase freight rail hauling capacity) is a forward step and will help our national economy.

Sincerely,

Benson City Council

January 13, 2008

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Giffords:

I represent the City of Benson, Arizona. Our city is conveniently located at I-10, SR-80, and SR-90. This transportation nexus means Benson has a consistent and increasing volume of freight passing over our highways. Congestion and gridlock make it more difficult to improve transit services and detract from the quality of life we strive for in southeastern Arizona. We also care about the environment and safety. We look for alternatives and technology that is environmentally friendly. We support freight rail as one segment in the transportation mix that can help in the solution to our area's congestion – which will only worsen as trace volumes predictably increase.

When it comes to goods movement, currently, trains are the most fuel efficient form of ground transportation. Freight trains are three or more times more fuel efficient than trucks. If just 10 percent of the freight that is currently moved by truck were diverted to rail instead, fuel savings would exceed one billion gallons per year! One train can remove 280 trucks from our highways.

A bill currently in Congress would shrink hauling capacity by re-regulating the railroads. State transportation officials make a case in the *Freight Rail Bottom Line Report* that decreasing rail-hauling capacity is a step backward and will harm our national economy. I ask that you please do not support H.R. 2116.

As Arizona and the nation experience a tremendous rise in overall freight traffic, we need to identify the problems and seek solutions. Help us avoid further congestion! Expanding freight rail can save us time and fuel, improve the air quality and stimulate the economy. Increasing public investment in freight rail will help build a more efficient goods movement system so I'm asking you to cosponsor the bipartisan H.R. 2116. This tax credit (25% to any business investing to increase freight rail hauling capacity) is a forward step and will help our national economy.

Sincerely,

Benson City Council