



HR0529

LRB102 21123 LAW 30105 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress passed a law that transferred
3 the requirement of the railroads to operate passenger trains
4 to the federally-owned National Railroad Passenger Corporation
5 in 1970; and

6 WHEREAS, When the U.S. Department of Transportation drew
7 maps defining where these Amtrak trains would go, they did not
8 include local service in Illinois between Quincy and Chicago,
9 which included Macomb, Galesburg, Kewanee, Princeton, Mendota,
10 Plano, and the Chicago suburbs, and the service ended on May
11 11, 1971; and

12 WHEREAS, When interested parties in Macomb and Quincy lost
13 their fight against the law in federal court, they then asked
14 the State of Illinois to sponsor the service, worked with
15 communities along the route, and convinced the Illinois
16 General Assembly and Governor to sponsor daily local Amtrak
17 service under the Illinois Department of Transportation; and

18 WHEREAS, The morning eastbound and evening westbound
19 Illinois Zephyr trains have operated since November 4, 1971;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, This region of Illinois has benefited from being

1 the longest continuously operated state-supported train in the
2 Amtrak network for 50 years; and

3 WHEREAS, These same communities banded together to create
4 the Amtrak Carl Sandberg train in 2006, with departures
5 westbound in the morning and eastbound in the evening,
6 doubling local service on the route; this route is marking its
7 15th anniversary this year; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
9 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we declare November 3, 2021 as Amtrak Anniversary Day in the
11 State of Illinois; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we recognize the work in 1971 and again in
13 2006 that resulted in this region of Illinois having vital
14 passenger train connections to and from Chicago and cities in
15 Western and North-Central Illinois; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we urge the cities on the route to continue
17 to work with each other, Amtrak, the Illinois Department of
18 Transportation, and others to maintain and improve the local
19 Amtrak service that is such an asset to the communities it
20 serves; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 presented to the mayors of Quincy, Macomb, Galesburg, Kewanee,
2 Princeton, Mendota, Plano, Naperville, and LaGrange.