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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The railroad industry plays a critical role in the transportation of goods across the nation; however, certain practices and conditions associated with train operations have raised concerns regarding environmental impact, public safety, and community well-being; and

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WHEREAS, Idling freight trains contribute to air pollution and adversely affect the air quality in nearby communities, and the routing of hazardous materials throughout the country creates significant risks to public safety and the environment; and

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WHEREAS, Additionally, the operation of long freight trains can divide communities, impede emergency response times, and increase the risk of derailments, posing threats to both residents and infrastructure; and

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WHEREAS, Immediate action is needed to address delays that result in idling freight trains, which have harmful environmental impacts on our local communities and create blocked at-grade crossings, which adversely impact public safety and harm economic development; and

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WHEREAS, The placement of grade separations would increase

1 the capacity by allowing constant flow in all directions,
2 thereby removing crossing traffic from intersections and
3 improving the safety of our roadways through reducing
4 vehicle-vehicle and vehicle-pedestrian conflicts and
5 collisions; and

6 WHEREAS, The long-term benefits of reduced air pollution,
7 enhanced public safety, and minimized risks of derailments can
8 result in significant cost savings for both the government and
9 affected communities; and

10 WHEREAS, By addressing these critical concerns and
11 implementing proposed policy measures, we can protect the
12 environment from air pollution, ensure train safety, reduce
13 risks associated with the transportation of hazardous
14 materials, and promote the well-being of communities across
15 the State; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge Congress and
18 the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), in collaboration
19 with local and other relevant stakeholders, to take immediate
20 action to address delays that result in idling freight trains
21 by installing additional tracks or other measures in order to
22 reduce environmental impacts and blocked at-grade crossings;
23 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we urge the FRA to create recommendations
2 on the strategic placement of grade separations and mandate
3 reasonable lengths of freight trains as determined by
4 comprehensive federal studies and assessments that identify
5 risks associated with long freight trains and encourage the
6 reduction of the length of trains, including public safety
7 impacts and any increased risks of derailment; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That we urge the FRA, in order to enhance public
10 safety and minimize the risks associated with the
11 transportation of hazardous materials, to undertake a study to
12 determine safer, innovative methods of routing these materials
13 through the country, with the study incorporating a full
14 assessment of railways in relation to critical infrastructure
15 and explosive materials, including fueling stations and gas
16 lines, an assessment of community communication with an
17 emphasis on first responders, a review of safety standards for
18 rail cars, a consideration of the use of advanced technology
19 and risk assessment tools to determine the safest and most
20 efficient routing options for hazardous materials, and a
21 current assessment of track conditions; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That we support funding for impacted counties
23 for research, development, and collaboration efforts.