

House Resolution 1023

By: Representative Clark of the 108th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Federal Railroad Administration to take action to regulate the blocking of railroad
2 crossings; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the nation's freight railroad network is vital to the functioning of the economy;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia residents and communities have expressed concerns regarding the
6 blocking of railroad crossings by train or for routine maintenance; and

7 WHEREAS, although the federal rail safety regulation agency, the Federal Railroad
8 Administration (FRA), oversees various aspects of freight railroad safety, it has no specific
9 regulations limiting how long a train may sit at a railroad crossing or when a railroad
10 company may close a crossing to perform routine maintenance; and

11 WHEREAS, the FRA recommends that railroads work cooperatively with state and local
12 officials to eliminate or minimize the impact of blocked crossings whenever possible; and

13 WHEREAS, some railroads have failed to adequately coordinate maintenance projects,
14 leaving communities with several major arterial streets and crossings blocked; and

15 WHEREAS, not only does a blocked railroad crossing cause major traffic issues to motorists
16 who must then find a detour, it also prevents essential public safety services from responding
17 to emergencies in a quick and potentially life-saving manner.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
19 the members of this body urge the Federal Railroad Administration to take action to regulate
20 blocked railroad crossings in metropolitan areas due to routine maintenance or stopped trains.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
22 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
23 Federal Railroad Administration and to the members of the Georgia congressional
24 delegation.