

Senator Luz Escamilla proposes the following substitute bill:

1           **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE EVALUATION**  
2                           **OF INTERSTATE PASSENGER RAIL OPPORTUNITIES**

3   2021 GENERAL SESSION

4   STATE OF UTAH

5   **Chief Sponsor: Luz Escamilla**

6   House Sponsor: Sandra Hollins

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8           **LONG TITLE**

9           **General Description:**

10                   This concurrent resolution encourages the evaluation of interstate passenger rail  
11 opportunities and the expansion of Utah's rail infrastructure.

12           **Highlighted Provisions:**

13                   This resolution:

- 14                   ▶ recognizes the benefits of railway investment and expanded rail infrastructure;
- 15                   ▶ requests that the Utah Department of Transportation, the Utah Transit Authority,  
16 and Utah's Metropolitan Planning Organizations research interstate rail expansion  
17 and identify funding opportunities; and
- 18                   ▶ calls on the Governor's Office of Economic Development, the Utah Department of  
19 Transportation, the Utah Transit Authority, and Utah's Metropolitan Planning  
20 Organizations to work together to evaluate expanded rail infrastructure in Utah and  
21 report to the Legislature, the Governor, and Utah's federal delegation to the United  
22 States Congress.

23           **Special Clauses:**

24                   None

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26 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

27       WHEREAS, railway investment can spur economic growth by inducing travel and  
28 tourism spending;

29       WHEREAS, expanded rail infrastructure can promote economic opportunity by  
30 fostering a business environment that attracts investment and creates jobs;

31       WHEREAS, expanded rail infrastructure can foster rural economic development by  
32 improving access to rural communities and tourist attractions;

33       WHEREAS, expanded rail infrastructure can encourage individuals to travel by rail,  
34 reducing air pollution, highway wear, and traffic crashes; and

35       WHEREAS, expanded rail infrastructure can facilitate interstate mobility by connecting  
36 Utah's cities, towns, and rural communities to other states:

37       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
38 Governor concurring therein, requests that the Utah Department of Transportation, the  
39 Utah Transit Authority, the Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Dixie Metropolitan  
40 Planning Organization, the Mountainland Association of Governments, and the Wasatch Front  
41 Regional Council research interstate passenger rail expansion, including the feasibility of a  
42 multi-state passenger rail commission, and identify opportunities for funding interstate rail.

43       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor call on the  
44 Governor's Office of Economic Development, the Utah Department of Transportation, the Utah  
45 Transit Authority, the Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Dixie Metropolitan  
46 Planning Organization, the Mountainland Association of Governments, and the Wasatch Front  
47 Regional Council to work together to evaluate the expansion of passenger rail infrastructure in  
48 Utah.

49       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor request that the  
50 Governor's Office of Economic Development, the Utah Department of Transportation, the Utah  
51 Transit Authority, the Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Dixie Metropolitan  
52 Planning Organization, the Mountainland Association of Governments, and the Wasatch Front  
53 Regional Council prepare a report for the Legislature, the Governor, and members of Utah's  
54 federal delegation to Congress on recommendations for expanding passenger rail infrastructure  
55 and funding opportunities.

56       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to members of

57 Utah's congressional delegation, the Governor's Office of Economic Development, the Utah  
58 Department of Transportation, the Utah Transit Authority, the Cache Metropolitan Planning  
59 Organization, the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Mountainland Association of  
60 Governments, and the Wasatch Front Regional Council.