

## 1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

2 INTRODUCED BY M. REINHART

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
5 MONTANA URGING SUPPORT FOR AMTRAK PASSENGER RAIL SERVICES ACROSS SOUTHERN  
6 MONTANA AND CONTINUED FUNDING FOR AMTRAK'S EMPIRE BUILDER ROUTE ACROSS MONTANA'S  
7 HI-LINE.

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9 WHEREAS, our airports and roadways are severely congested, we face a dwindling supply of oil and  
10 rising gas prices, and trains are among the most energy-efficient ways to move people; and

11 WHEREAS, commercial airline service to many counties and communities in Montana is inadequate and  
12 at risk of further reductions or elimination; and

13 WHEREAS, some communities in Montana are poorly served by public transportation, and passenger  
14 rail services provide mobility for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, students, and businesspeople; and

15 WHEREAS, Amtrak was created in 1971 from what remained of private passenger railroads and has  
16 been starved of investment and direction by the United States Congress and several presidential administrations;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the North Coast Hiawatha ceased operation through southern Montana in 1979, and  
19 transportation to and from the major population centers of southern Montana would be greatly enhanced by  
20 passenger rail service; and

21 WHEREAS, restoring the North Coast Hiawatha would stimulate Montana's economy through increased  
22 tourism spending and an associated increase in job opportunities; and

23 WHEREAS, increased passenger rail services will increase railroad-related employment because of the  
24 need for upgraded rail infrastructure and operating personnel; and

25 WHEREAS, the Empire Builder is a very popular long-distance passenger train in the United States, with  
26 over 90% on-time performance, and is greatly needed for the citizens of Montana's Hi-Line, who have limited  
27 public transportation options.

28

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
30 STATE OF MONTANA:

