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1	SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16
2	INTRODUCED BY T. FACEY
3	
4	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5	MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY ON EXPANDING PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE IN MONTANA.
6	
7	WHEREAS, commercial airline service to many counties and communities in Montana is inadequate and
8	at risk of further reductions or elimination; and
9	WHEREAS, some communities in Montana are poorly served by public transportation, and passenger
10	rail services provide mobility for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, students, and businesspeople; and
11	WHEREAS, Amtrak was created in 1971 from what remained of private passenger railroads and has
12	been starved of investment and direction by the United States Congress and several presidential administrations;
13	and
14	WHEREAS, the North Coast Hiawatha ceased operation through southern Montana in 1979, and
15	transportation to and from the major population centers of southern Montana would be greatly enhanced by
16	passenger rail service; and
17	WHEREAS, restoring the North Coast Hiawatha would stimulate Montana's economy through increased
18	tourism spending and an associated increase in job opportunities; and
19	WHEREAS, increased passenger rail services will increase railroad-related employment because of the
20	need for upgraded rail infrastructure and operating personnel; and
21	WHEREAS, the Empire Builder is a very popular long-distance passenger train in the United States, with
22	over 90% on-time performance, and is greatly needed for the citizens of Montana's Hi-Line, who have limited
23	public transportation options.
24	
25	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
26	STATE OF MONTANA:
27	That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to
28	section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:
29	(1) evaluate the costs of expanding passenger rail service in Montana;
30	(2) identify local, state, and federal funding sources for passenger rail;
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1 (3) analyze the benefits of increased passenger rail including access to public transportation and 2 economic benefits from increased tourism and job opportunities;

3 (4) explore potential connecting routes for service within Montana; and

4 (5) evaluate possible bus and rail connections that could serve Montana communities with no direct
5 access to passenger rail services.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review 7 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2012.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,

9 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 63rd Legislature.

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- END -

