



**RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF A STATEWIDE INITIATIVE FOR
LEGISLATIVE AND FUNDING SUPPORT FOR ENHANCED
AND IMPROVED PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE FOR THE
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, passenger rail service is an integral part of a comprehensive transportation system for the state of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, economic development, tourism and job creation will benefit through the enhancement of a passenger rail system that serves the citizens of North Carolina and visitors to our state; and,

WHEREAS, we applaud the state of North Carolina for development of comprehensive intercity rail services in urban jurisdictions throughout the state; and,

WHEREAS, there is a vital need to provide a balanced transportation system both statewide and nationwide as demonstrated in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 tragedies; and,

WHEREAS, an increase in state funding for passenger rail service in North Carolina is necessary to support development of intercity rail services that can connect our small urban and rural areas of the state with the urbanized centers of our state; and,

WHEREAS, support by local and state elected officials is essential for the future of alternative transportation in North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, support and utilization of transportation improvements by business and commercial interests is essential for the successful deployment of alternative transportation modes in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is a vehicle to express the unified support of communities and chambers of commerce throughout North Carolina for increased statewide funding for passenger rail service; and,

WHEREAS, rail linkages between communities and regions within North Carolina establish and strengthen social, historical, commercial and cultural bonds; and,

WHEREAS, the average return on investment for the surrounding community for station revitalizations throughout North Carolina is more than one dollar for every dollar invested; and,

WHEREAS, the associated improvements to rail facilities will increase the efficiency and safety of rail service, help attract new freight traffic and provide environmental benefits by reducing the impact of truck traffic on North Carolina's highways and by reducing harmful emissions; and,

WHEREAS, an integrated passenger rail system will enhance accessibility and reliability for key military locations and ports.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce, through the adoption of this resolution, fully supports the creation of a comprehensive passenger rail system to serve the state of North Carolina, with its ultimate objective to further economic opportunity, help preserve the environment, improve the quality of life and enhance public health, safety and welfare for all citizens, communities and regions.

Adopted this 26th day of February, 2004



Henry W. Hinton, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Directors



Susanne D. Sartelle, CCE
President