A RESOLUTION urging the preservation of existing and development of
additional passenger rail service in Kansas.

WHEREAS, Passenger rail service has transported people into,
through and out of southwest Kansas since the 1800s; and

WHEREAS, Since 1971, Amtrak has provided passenger rail service
on its Southwest Chief cross-continental rail line connecting Chicago and
Los Angeles, the entire state and has two daily stops in Kansas City,
Lawrence, Topeka, Newton, Hutchinson, Dodge City and Garden City;
and

WHEREAS, The communities included on the Southwest Chief line
from Newton to Lamy, New Mexico have entered into a partnership
called the Southwest Chief Rural Rail Partnership and together this
partnership has worked for three years to build cooperation among the
three state governments, the communities along the route, Burlington
Northern Santa Fe and Amtrak to preserve one of the most picturesque
and historic passenger rail lines in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Since 2008, Kansans interested in developing passenger
rail from Kansas City to Dallas have worked with partners in Oklahoma
and Texas to develop the Heartland Flyer; and

WHEREAS, The Northern Flyer Alliance represents the portion of
that regional passenger rail service in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, The benefits of preserving and developing the passenger
rail line have been shown through the cooperation of the Kansas
Department of Transportation in their commitment to federal grants for
both projects; and

WHEREAS, Preserving existing and developing additional passenger
rail service is in the best economic interest of Kansas: Now therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:
That we urge the preservation of existing and development of additional
passenger rail service in Kansas; and

Be it further resolved: That the Chief Clerk of the House of
Representatives shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to the
Secretary of Transportation for the State of Kansas.