

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.138

Senators Schmidt, Horn, Hollier, Huizenga, Daley, Bizon, Runestad, Wojno, Alexander, Irwin, McMorrow, Bayer, VanderWall, Polehanki, Nesbitt, Zorn, Moss, Hertel, Brinks, McCann, Outman, Johnson, Bullock, Barrett, McBroom, MacDonald, Wozniak, Stamas, Chang, Victory and Lauwers offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize May 11, 2022, as Michigan Rail Day.

2 Whereas, National Rail Day is celebrated in May to commemorate
3 the completion of America's first transcontinental railroad on May
4 11, 1869; and

5 Whereas, Michigan is fortunate to have 3,465 freight rail
6 miles operated by 29 freight carriers and Amtrak passenger service;
7 and

8 Whereas, Railroads are a safe way to move freight and are

1 working to improve infrastructure and equipment safety, reduce
2 human error, and protect the rail network every day; and

3 Whereas, Technology including smart sensors, big data, and
4 drones are used throughout the nearly 140,000 mile national rail
5 network, while also ensuring infrastructure and equipment safety;
6 and

7 Whereas, Between 2000 and 2021, train accidents were down 33
8 percent and between 2000 and 2020, the hazmat accident rate was
9 down 60 percent. In 2020, the rail employee injury rate was at an
10 all-time low; and

11 Whereas, Moving freight by rail prevents 6.97 million tons of
12 greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent of planting 105.6 million
13 trees; and

14 Whereas, Railroads help preserve infrastructure and aid in
15 cutting congestion. Freight railroads take 4.7 million truckloads
16 off Michigan roads annually; and

17 Whereas, From the auto industry and other manufacturers to
18 mining and agriculture, Michigan's productive freight rail network
19 provides key connections to keep our state's economy vibrant; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
22 body recognize May 11, 2022, as Michigan Rail Day; and be it
23 further

24 Resolved, That we recognize and celebrate the pivotal role
25 that a robust freight railroad and passenger system is to the
26 residents of the Great Lakes State.