

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 46

Senators Victory, McCann, Cherry, McBroom, Hertel, Shink, Lauwers, Chang, Anthony, Damoose, Bellino, Huizenga, Bumstead, Daley and Santana offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize May 14, 2025, 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
9 working to improve infrastructure and equipment safety, reduce
10 human error, and protect the rail network every day; and

11 Whereas, Technologies like train inspection portals and
12 cracked wheel detection have resulted in Class 1 mainline accident

1 rate reductions of 42 percent since 2000; and

2 Whereas, The last decade was the safest, with the 2023 hazmat
3 accident rate at its lowest ever; and

4 Whereas, The railroad industry partners with law enforcement,
5 fire departments, 911 call centers, emergency management directors
6 and others to promote a blue safety sign, also known as the
7 Emergency Notification Sign (ENS), which is located at every rail
8 crossing; and

9 Whereas, Railroads offer the safety tool, AskRail app, to
10 Michigan's fire and police leadership. The AskRail app provides
11 first responders immediate access to accurate, timely data about
12 what type of hazardous materials a railcar is carrying so they can
13 make an informed decision about how to respond to a rail emergency;
14 and

15 Whereas, Moving freight by rail prevents 6.97 million tons of
16 greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent of planting 105.6 million
17 trees; and

18 Whereas, Railroads help preserve infrastructure and aid in
19 cutting congestion; and

20 Whereas, Freight railroads take 4.7 million truckloads off
21 Michigan roads annually; and

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

26 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
27 body recognize May 14, 2025, as Michigan Rail Day; and be it
28 further

29 Resolved, That we recognize and celebrate the pivotal role

1 that a robust freight railroad and passenger system is to the
2 residents of the Great Lakes State.