

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 104

Rep. Schmaltz offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare May 14, 2025, as Rail Day in the state
2 of Michigan.

3 Whereas, National Rail Day is celebrated in May to commemorate
4 the completion of America's first transcontinental railroad on May
5 11, 1869; and

6 Whereas, Michigan is fortunate to have 3,349 freight rail
7 miles operated by twenty-nine freight carriers and Amtrak passenger
8 service; and

9 Whereas, Railroads are a safe way to move freight and are
10 working to improve infrastructure and equipment safety, reduce
11 human error, and protect the rail network every day; and

12 Whereas, Technologies like train inspection portals and
13 cracked wheel detection have resulted in accident rate reductions
14 of 33% since 2005; and

1 Whereas, Due to ongoing investments, hazmat accident rates per
2 carload have reached record lows— down 80% since 2005, and freight
3 rail remains the safest way to transport hazmat, with more than
4 99.99% of shipments arriving without a release due to a train
5 accident, and

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

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

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

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

23 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
24 this legislative body declare May 14, 2025, as Rail Day in the
25 state of Michigan; and be it further

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