

Rep. Glardon offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 257.

A resolution to declare May 12, 2012, as Train Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, The United States of America has made a considerable financial commitment to expanding the nation's high-speed and intercity passenger rail (HSIPR) network, including funding for Michigan to purchase the rail corridor from Dearborn to Kalamazoo which, combined with the Amtrak rail corridor from Kalamazoo to Porter, Indiana, will create the longest passenger rail controlled corridor outside of the northeast corridor; and

Whereas, Developing this pipeline of national high-speed and intercity passenger rail projects will revitalize the domestic manufacturing industry and create additional American jobs building on the one million good-paying middle-class creating American jobs that can never be outsourced already supported by the rail industry; and

Whereas, Ridership on Amtrak has grown eight out of the last nine years, further demonstrating the increased demand for intercity passenger rail services; and

Whereas, In highly populated regions, Amtrak trains and infrastructure carry intercity passengers and commuters to and from work in congested metropolitan areas, providing a reliable rail option while reducing congestion on roads and in the skies; and

Whereas, Amtrak annually provides intercity passenger rail travel to over 30 million Americans residing in 46 states; and

Whereas, For many rural Americans, Amtrak represents the only major intercity transportation link to the rest of the country; and

Whereas, Passenger rail provides a more fuel-efficient transportation system thereby providing cleaner transportation alternatives and energy security; and

Whereas, When combined with all modes of transportation, passenger railroads emit only 0.2 percent of the travel industry's total greenhouse gases and one freight train can move a ton of freight 457 miles on one gallon of fuel; and

Whereas, In the state of Michigan, more than 880,900 people got on and off trains for the fiscal year 2011; and

Whereas, Our railroad stations are a source of civic pride, a gateway to our communities, and a tool for economic growth that creates transportation-oriented development and livable communities; and

Whereas, On May 10, 1869, the "golden spike" was driven into the final tie at Promontory Summit, Utah to join the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific Railroads, ceremonially completing the first transcontinental railroad and therefore connecting both coasts of the United States; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare May 12, 2012, as Train Day in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That we recognize and celebrate the pivotal role that a robust intercity passenger rail system can provide for better mobility for persons of all abilities; and be it further

Resolved, That we hold events at our stations for our communities to commemorate this momentous day in railroad history.