

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 104

Reps. Schmaltz, Alexander, Breen, Fox, Glanville, Lightner, Paiz, Rogers, Weiss, Witwer and Young 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

1 cracked wheel detection have resulted in accident rate reductions
2 of 33% since 2005; and

3 Whereas, Due to ongoing investments, hazmat accident rates per
4 carload have reached record lows— down 80% since 2005, and freight
5 rail remains the safest way to transport hazmat, with more than
6 99.99% of shipments arriving without a release due to a train
7 accident, and

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

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

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

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

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

28 Resolved, That we recognize and celebrate the pivotal role
29 that a robust freight railroad and passenger system is to the

1 residents of the Great Lakes State.