

RESOLUTION 1-0407

IOWA COUNTY RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESUMPTION OF RAIL SERVICE IN IOWA COUNTY, WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, the railroad corridor(s) formerly owned by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad (Milwaukee Road) between Monroe and Mineral Point and between Gratiot and Shullsburg, Wisconsin were abandoned by said railroad; and

WHEREAS, the Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission ("PRTC") acquired ownership of the railroad corridor between Monroe and Mineral Point, WI in Green, Lafayette and Iowa Counties and had preserved the corridor for future rail service; and

WHEREAS, PRTC is created on behalf of Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Rock Counties for the purpose of providing for the continuance of rail service to Southwest Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the PRTC has contracted with the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co. (WSOR) to provide freight rail service on former Milwaukee Road Trackage between Janesville and Monroe, WI in Green and Rock Counties; and

WHEREAS, at the January 26th 2007 PRTC meeting, the commission was informed of the intentions of three private companies who would like to invest millions of dollars in "agriculturally-related" facilities in Iowa County and the Southwest Wisconsin region if there was the presence of rail service; and

WHEREAS, the WSOR presented a "conceptual" plan called Rail Restoration 15 (RR15) to the Iowa County Finance, Bonds, Insurance, Tax Claims, Legislative, Resource Development and Tourism Committee at its February 22nd meeting to resume rail service in Southwest Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa County Finance, Bonds, Insurance, Tax Claims, Legislative, Resource Development and Tourism Committee did acknowledge the need for the WSOR to discuss the rail expansion with the City of Mineral Point and said plan was "unanimously" supported by the Iowa County Finance, Bonds, Insurance, Tax Claims, Legislative, Resource Development and Tourism Committee; and

WHEREAS, said RR15 Plan as proposed by WSOR entails resumption of rail service to Southwest Wisconsin in three subsequent phases beginning in the year 2009: *Phase One* Monroe to Gratiot (22 miles), *Phase Two* Gratiot to Shullsburg (15 miles), and *Phase Three* Gratiot to South Mineral Point (25 Miles); and

WHEREAS, the funding strategy of RR15 includes the solicitation of a state and/or federal grant for re-installation of railroad infrastructure providing for 80% of project costs or \$15 million annually for the next four (4) years, while the remaining 20% of project costs will come from private sources such as WSOR and other local match funding sources; and

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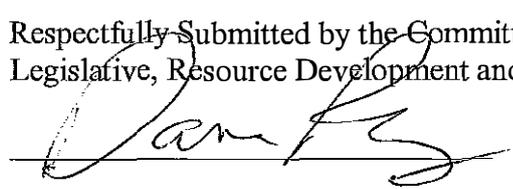
WHEREAS, economic development of agriculture and industry are important to the residents of Iowa County; and

WHEREAS, resumption of rail service in Iowa County could create new economic development and employment opportunities for local residents, expand the tax base of the county and its local units of government; and

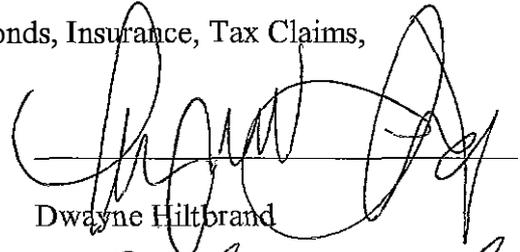
WHEREAS, rail expansion in Iowa County will provide access to national and world markets that might not otherwise exist and will provide opportunities to attract industrial and manufacturing activity to Iowa County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa County Board of Supervisors hereby supports the concept of the RR15 Plan and hereby endorses further exploratory efforts for resumption of rail service in Iowa County.

Respectfully Submitted by the Committee on Finance, Bonds, Insurance, Tax Claims,
Legislative, Resource Development and Tourism:



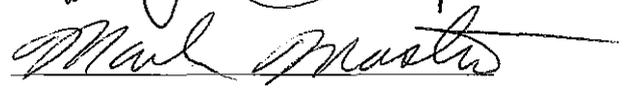
Dana Perry, Chairman



Dwayne Hiltbrand



John Lind



Mark Masters

Diane McGuire