

A resolution

in support of Amtrak funding in the state of Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Amtrak serves over 25 million passengers every year, transporting people to 500 stations in 46 states; and

WHEREAS, for every one person who travels by air, five persons travel by rail; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak provided the most effective mode of passenger transportation still operating after the World Trade Center tragedy of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak constitutes the most effective, environmentally sound, and energy efficient method of transporting large numbers of persons over mid and long-range distances, with 189,017 Minnesota boardings and alightings in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the federal government provides many billions of dollars in financial subsidies for highways, airports, and waterways; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak seeks less than \$2 billion in federal appropriation and spent over \$42 million for goods and services in Minnesota in fiscal year 2006; and

WHEREAS, the presidential administration continues to propose a 40 percent underfunding of identified capital and operational needs for Amtrak service; and

WHEREAS, demand for Amtrak service in Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, and Michigan has increased significantly with mid-range, cross-state service routes; and

WHEREAS, the Midwest High Speed Passenger Rail Corridor will run on the current and active Amtrak Empire Builder route; and

H.F. No. 2415, as introduced - 85th Legislative Session (2007-2008)

2.1 WHEREAS, the state of Minnesota seeks intrastate passenger rail service, and Amtrak
2.2 Service will contribute to a benefit for intrastate passenger rail service; NOW, THEREFORE,

2.3 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it go on record in
2.4 support of Amtrak and proper funding for Amtrak in the federal budget for fiscal year 2008.

2.5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is
2.6 directed to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to Minnesota's Senators and
2.7 Representatives in Congress to request their honorable support for full Amtrak funding in the
2.8 appropriations of the federal budget for fiscal year 2008.