

By: Senator(s) Baria, Hewes, Gollott, Lee  
(47th), Dawkins, Watson, Moffatt, Burton,  
Butler, Clarke, Fillingane, Jackson (32nd),  
Simmons

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 572

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS,  
2 THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE MISSISSIPPI  
3 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT FULL RESTORATION OF DAILY TRAIN  
4 SERVICE ON THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST.

5 WHEREAS, Congress and President Bush approved legislation  
6 calling for \$13.1 Billion in passenger-rail spending in the next  
7 five years; and

8 WHEREAS, Amtrak's Sunset Limited could be on track for full  
9 restoration of service in South Mississippi with this new law that  
10 gives Amtrak \$1 Million to study reinstating the service, which  
11 was cancelled after Hurricane Katrina; and

12 WHEREAS, the provision requires Amtrak to report to the U.S.  
13 House and Senate Committees that oversee it in nine months and the  
14 law stipulates that "the plan shall include a projected timeline  
15 for restoring such service, the costs associated with restoring  
16 such service, and any proposals for legislation necessary to  
17 support such restoration of service"; and

18 WHEREAS, this law says that "in developing the plan, Amtrak  
19 shall consult with representatives from the States of Louisiana,  
20 Alabama, Mississippi and Florida, railroad carriers whose tracks  
21 may be used for such service, rail passengers, rail labor and  
22 other entities as appropriate"; and

23 WHEREAS, Amtrak will work through the Departments of  
24 Transportation in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana to  
25 try to develop a rail plan and public meetings designed to get  
26 feedback from potential riders would be coordinated through the  
27 Mississippi Department of Transportation; and



28           WHEREAS, the key will be finding a way to offer a service  
29 that attracts more riders and Amtrak wants to offer train service  
30 that can keep to a schedule because the old Sunset Limited route  
31 was habitually late and offering multiple trains from Orlando to  
32 New Orleans might make it easier to keep the routes on time and  
33 attract more ridership; and

34           WHEREAS, in areas with daily service, Amtrak trains and  
35 infrastructure carry commuters to and from work in congested  
36 metropolitan areas providing a reliable rail option, reducing  
37 congestion on roads and in the skies; and

38           WHEREAS, for many Mississippi Gulf Coast residents, Amtrak  
39 represents the only major intercity transportation link to the  
40 rest of the country and without the Sunset Limited east of New  
41 Orleans that link is broken; and

42           WHEREAS, passenger rail provides a more fuel-efficient  
43 transportation system, thereby providing cleaner transportation  
44 alternatives and energy security; and

45           WHEREAS, passenger railroads emit only 0.2% of the travel  
46 industry's total greenhouse gases; and

47           WHEREAS, according to figures from the Tourism Division of  
48 the Mississippi Development Authority, 22 million tourists visited  
49 Mississippi in 2007 and spent a total of \$5.7 Billion. Total tax  
50 revenue from the tourism industry for 2007 was \$417 Million.  
51 Tourism was responsible for more than 85,000 direct jobs with a  
52 payroll of \$1.7 Billion, enough to make it Mississippi's sixth  
53 largest employer; and

54           WHEREAS, our Bay St. Louis railroad station is a source of  
55 civil pride, a gateway to our community and a tool for economic  
56 growth; and

57           WHEREAS, daily passenger train service would be the next  
58 logical step in the revitalization and reconstruction of the  
59 Mississippi Gulf Coast:



60           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
61 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
62 we hereby (a) recognize the contribution daily passenger train  
63 service would make to the redevelopment of the Mississippi Gulf  
64 Coast; (b) urge the United States Congress, the Executive Director  
65 of the Department of Transportation and the Director of the  
66 Division of Tourism of the Mississippi Development Authority to  
67 support full restoration of service, daily of the Sunset Limited  
68 on the Mississippi Gulf Coast; and (c) request that our  
69 Mississippi congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., the  
70 Mississippi Development Authority and the Mississippi Department  
71 of Transportation keep the Mississippi Legislature fully informed  
72 as to any and all developments by Amtrak regarding restoration of  
73 the Sunset Limited to the Gulf Coast, rail studies, plans and  
74 public meetings designed to get feedback from potential riders.

75           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted  
76 to the Governor, the Executive Director of the Mississippi  
77 Department of Transportation, the Director of the Mississippi  
78 Development Authority and to members of Mississippi's  
79 congressional delegation, and be made available to the Capitol  
80 Press Corps.

