

RESOLUTION NO. 99- 17432

A RESOLUTION OF THE BILLINGS CITY COUNCIL EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS AND OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES TO STUDY THE COMMUNITY PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE MONTANA RAIL LINK TRACKS WITHIN THE CITY OF BILLINGS.

WHEREAS, the railroad tracks of Montana Rail Link run through the downtown area of the City of Billings; and

WHEREAS, the railroad tracks have caused a number of community problems regarding traffic congestion and gridlocks, endangering the public safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, a joint resolution of the Montana Senate and House of Representatives is being sponsored by Representative John Bohlinger and is to be considered by the Montana Legislature as its regular session, now in progress; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Billings City Council to express its support for the joint resolution, urging the U.S. Congress and other pertinent federal agencies to study the community problems created by the presence of the Montana Rail Link tracks in the heart of the City of Billings.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS, the City Council supports the joint resolution, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit "A", and hereby urges the Senate and House of Representatives to approve the resolution and forward it to the Montana delegation in the U.S. Congress.

DATED AND APPROVED this 11th day of January 1999.

THE CITY OF BILLINGS:



BY: Charles F. Tooley
Charles F. Tooley, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BY: Marita Herold
Marita Herold, CMC/AEE CITY CLERK

**A JOINT RESOLUTION
OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS AND PERTINENT FEDERAL AGENCIES TO STUDY
THE COMMUNITY PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE PRESENCE
OF THE MONTANA RAIL LINK TRACKS IN THE CITY OF
BILLINGS AND TO PROVIDE A SOLUTION TO THESE
PROBLEMS**

WHERE AS:

THESE TRACKS PASS THROUGH AND DIVIDE THE HEART OF MONTANA'S LARGEST CITY, AND

WHERE AS:

BECAUSE OF THE TRACKS AND TRAIN TRAFFIC, VEHICULAR TRAFFIC FINDS ITSELF STACKED IN GRID LOCK, UNABLE TO MOVE, SEVERAL TIMES A DAY, AND

WHERE AS:

THESE TRACKS INTERRUPT THE FREE FLOW OF TRAFFIC ON MONTANA HIGHWAY 3 WHICH IS PART OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM AND ITS CONNECTION TO INTERSTATE 90, AND

WHERE AS:

THE PRESENCE OF THESE TRACKS HAS CREATED PUBLIC MEDICAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS, AND

WHERE AS:

THE PRESENCE OF THESE TRACKS HAS PRODUCED AN ECONOMICALLY HARMFUL ATMOSPHERE IN THE CITY OF BILLINGS, AND

WHERE AS:

THE PRESENCE OF THESE TRACKS HAS CREATED A CULTURAL DIVISION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA, AND

WHERE AS:

THE BILLINGS COMMUNITY IS SEEKING A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM, AND

WHERE AS:

THIS RESOLUTION REQUEST HAS THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE BILLINGS CITY COUNCIL, THE YELLOWSTONE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE CITY-COUNTY PLANNING BOARD, THE MONTANA RAIL LINK, AND THE ADJACENT NEIGHBORHOOD TASK FORCE REPRESENTING THE SOUTH PARK TASK FORCE, THE NORTH ELEVATION TASK FORCE, THE NORTH PARK TASK FORCE, AND THE CENTRAL-TERRY PARK TASK FORCE;

NOW THEREFORE,

THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUEST THAT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FUNDING FOR SUCH A STUDY, ~~AND FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY.~~