

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 102

2 BY McCOY

3 A Concurrent Resolution urging the Federal Railroad  
4 Administration to conduct regulatory proceedings  
5 regarding remote control locomotive operations by  
6 railroad companies.

7 WHEREAS, one of the primary goals of the Iowa  
8 General Assembly is to protect the safety of the  
9 citizens of the State of Iowa; and

10 WHEREAS, the Iowa General Assembly is dedicated to  
11 the proposition that all Iowans have a right to a safe  
12 environment, free from the danger of uncontrolled  
13 releases of hazardous materials; and

14 WHEREAS, railroad companies that operate in Iowa  
15 transport large amounts of hazardous chemicals, and  
16 those chemicals are subject to uncontrolled releases  
17 or spillage when railroad cars carrying the chemicals  
18 are ruptured during derailments or collisions; and

19 WHEREAS, railroad companies operating in Iowa have  
20 implemented remote control locomotive operations in  
21 which unmanned locomotives are used to switch railcars  
22 containing hazardous materials, or to switch cars on  
23 tracks adjacent to cars carrying hazardous materials,  
24 occupied locomotives, and passenger trains; and

25 WHEREAS, in the United States, railroad companies  
26 have been allowed to implement these remote control  
27 operations without Federal Railroad Administration  
28 regulations, in spite of a request in November 2000 by  
29 the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen  
30 to the Federal Railroad Administration to initiate a

RULES & ADMINISTRATION

SCR 102

1 rulemaking procedure; and

2 WHEREAS, on November 29, 2000, the Federal Railroad  
3 Administration established FRA Docket No. 2000-8422 to  
4 engage in rulemaking regarding remote control  
5 locomotive operations, and thus far, the Federal  
6 Railroad Administration has declined to provide such  
7 rulemaking; NOW THEREFORE,

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF  
9 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the Iowa General  
10 Assembly calls upon the Federal Railroad  
11 Administration to reopen FRA Docket No. 2000-8422 so  
12 that railroad employees, citizens, and communities  
13 that may be affected can register their concerns about  
14 the safety of railroad operations; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this  
16 Resolution be sent to the President of the United  
17 States, the Administrator of the Federal Railroad  
18 Administration, and the members of Iowa's  
19 congressional delegation.

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