



FALL MEETING OF THE MIDWEST INTERSTATE PASSENGER RAIL COMMISSION

**November 27, 2006
St. Louis, Missouri**

RESOLUTION ON THE USE OF BIODIESEL IN PASSENGER TRAINS

- Whereas, travel by passenger train creates less air pollution per passenger mile than by car or air transport; and
- Whereas, the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC) envisions a passenger rail network in the Midwest with multiple daily trains along more than 3,500 miles of track, potentially increasing Amtrak's use of diesel fuel in the region greater than four-fold; and
- Whereas, more than three billion gallons of diesel fuel is consumed in railroad applications each year in the United States, about the same amount as used for agriculture; and
- Whereas, Amtrak's reported diesel fuel usage in FY 2005 was 66.6 million gallons; and
- Whereas, biodiesel offers a practical means of reducing U.S. petroleum imports that will benefit the United States by strengthening national energy security and improving farm and rural incomes; and
- Whereas, biodiesel produces less air pollution than petroleum-based diesel fuel, thereby further enhancing the environmental benefits of rail; and
- Whereas, biodiesel also offers lubricity benefits not available using diesel fuel with other additives; and
- Whereas, diesel engines can use most biodiesel blends with no modifications; and
- Whereas, the Midwest has a current annual biodiesel production capacity of more than 258 million gallons, as well as biodiesel production plants under construction that will bring that capacity to almost one billion gallons annually by 2007; now therefore be it
- Resolved, that the MIPRC urges Amtrak to begin a dialogue in 2007 with the MIPRC to initiate a pilot program in the Midwest to purchase biodiesel for their trains with routes that originate in the Midwest; and be it further
- Resolved, that this resolution be sent to Amtrak's President, Vice President and Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Midwest, as well as to the Federal Railroad Administrator, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and the U.S. Secretary of Energy.