

RESOLUTION NO. 1163

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AMTRAK AND STATE INTER-CITY RAIL PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation ("Amtrak") was established by Congress in 1970 to provide and sustain a nationwide network of intercity passenger trains; and

WHEREAS, increased use of passenger trains will help to reduce America's reliance on imported oil, contribute to our region's economic vitality and enhance our global competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak is energy efficient and environmentally beneficial, consuming half as much energy per passenger-mile as airlines and causing less air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak provides mobility to citizens of many smaller communities poorly served by air and bus services, as well as to those senior citizens, people with disabilities, students, persons with medical conditions preventing them from flying who need trains as a travel option; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak is nine times safer than driving on a per passenger-mile basis, and operates even in severe weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak travel rose 48% from 1982 to 1993 and Amtrak dramatically improved coverage of its operating costs from revenues; and

WHEREAS, enhancement of Amtrak services and the development of High Speed Rail in the Cascadia region can reduce the need for auto trips and short-haul flights, thus extending the useful lives of existing transportation infrastructures and resources like Interstate 5 and the Seattle Tacoma International Airport; and

WHEREAS, expansion of Amtrak service by using existing rail rights-of-way would cost less and use less land than new highways or airports, and would further increase Amtrak's energy-efficiency advantage; and

WHEREAS, states may use highway trust fund money as an 80% federal match for a variety of non-highway programs, but are prohibited from using such moneys for Amtrak projects; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak pays a fuel tax that airlines do not pay; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak workers and vendors pay more in taxes than the federal government invests in Amtrak.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TROUTDALE THAT:

We urge President Clinton and the Congress to take the following steps:

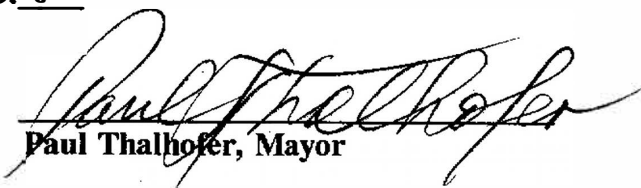
THAT federal funding of Amtrak not be reduced; and

THAT Amtrak be excused from paying fuel taxes that airlines did not pay; and

THAT states be given the flexibility to use Federal highway trust fund moneys on Amtrak if they so choose; and

THAT federal officials include a strong Amtrak system in any plans for a National Transportation System.

YEAS: 6
NAYS: 0
ABSTAINED: 0


Paul Thalhofer, Mayor

Dated: FEBRUARY 15, 1995


George Martinez, City Recorder

Adopted: 2/14/95