

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 29

Declaring the sense of the House with respect to the National Performance Review's recommendation to dismantle the railroad retirement system.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 1995

Mr. CLINGER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee Ways and Means and, in addition, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Declaring the sense of the House with respect to the National Performance Review's recommendation to dismantle the railroad retirement system.

Whereas the railroad industry pioneered the establishment of private industrial pension plans in the United States;

Whereas in the wake of the Great Depression, Congress assumed the responsibility of ensuring the financial integrity of railroad pension plans by developing a federally administered retirement program;

Whereas for nearly 60 years, millions of rail workers have contributed in good faith to a railroad retirement system which has generally served them well;

Whereas today, over 1,200,000 railroad workers, retirees, widows, and family members rely on the railroad retirement system for retirement, disability, survivor, unemployment and sickness benefits;

Whereas railroad employers and employees pay taxes into the Railroad Retirement and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Trust Funds to finance the administration of the railroad retirement system;

Whereas only vested dual benefits are appropriated from the general treasury;

Whereas the structure of the Railroad Retirement Board, which includes 3 members selected to represent the interests of the rail industry, railway labor organizations, and the public, respectively, fosters a close relationship between management and labor;

Whereas the National Performance Review's report "From Red Tape to Results: Creating a Government That Works Better and Costs Less" recommends the elimination of the Railroad Retirement Board and the transfer of its functions to other Federal agencies in order to realize greater Government efficiency and cost savings;

Whereas railroad retirees, employees, and their families in Pennsylvania and throughout the country strongly oppose this proposal; and

Whereas previous Administrations have proposed dismantling the railroad retirement system and failed to implement such recommendations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

1 (1) a continued Federal commitment to the rail-
2 road retirement system is essential to assure the in-
3 tegrity of railroad retirees' benefits;

4 (2) the preservation of the present structure of
5 the railroad system, including the administrative
6 framework of the Railroad Retirement Board, is nec-
7 essary to fulfill the time-honored responsibility of the
8 Government;

9 (3) dismantling the railroad retirement system
10 will neither increase Government efficiency nor save
11 the American taxpayers money, but instead burden
12 rail workers and their families; and

13 (4) the National Performance Review's proposal
14 to transfer administrative functions of the railroad
15 retirement system to other Federal agencies and
16 eliminate the Railroad Retirement Board should be
17 rejected.

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