

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 84

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2008 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ALISON LITTELL MCHOSE**

**District 24 (Sussex, Hunterdon and Morris)**

**Assemblyman GARY R. CHIUSANO**

**District 24 (Sussex, Hunterdon and Morris)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges completion of Lackawanna Cutoff rail passenger service restoration project.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



AR84 MCHOSE, CHIUSANO

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1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** respectfully urging the  
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Federal Transit  
3 Administration, and the New Jersey Transit Corporation to work  
4 together for a timely completion of the Lackawanna Cutoff rail  
5 passenger service restoration project.

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, When the Lackawanna Cutoff was built in the early 1900s,  
8 it was considered an engineering marvel and provided freight and  
9 passenger service from Scranton, Pennsylvania through the Pocono  
10 region of northeastern Pennsylvania into northern New Jersey and  
11 ending in Hoboken, New Jersey; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Passenger service on the line ended in 1970 and freight  
13 service ended in 1982; and

14 **WHEREAS**, In 2001 the 28 miles of right-of-way in New Jersey were  
15 purchased by New Jersey Transit in order to reserve them for the  
16 restoration of the rail passenger service; and

17 **WHEREAS**, The populations of the Pocono region in Pennsylvania and  
18 Warren and Sussex Counties in New Jersey are growing  
19 significantly, and large numbers of these residents are driving or  
20 taking bus service into New York City to work; and

21 **WHEREAS**, The restoration of the rail passenger service from  
22 northeastern Pennsylvania through northern New Jersey and  
23 continuing into New York City would improve the quality of life of  
24 those who now undertake these lengthy commutes and would also  
25 reduce motor vehicle traffic congestion and its resulting air  
26 pollution throughout these areas; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Congress has provided funding for the Lackawanna Cutoff  
28 rail passenger service restoration project under the provisions of the  
29 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A  
30 Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU); and

31 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey Transit has submitted the environmental  
32 assessment for the New Jersey portion of the restoration project to  
33 the Federal Transit Administration and stands ready to proceed with  
34 the necessary hearings once the Federal Transit Administration has  
35 established the review schedule for the project; and

36 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey Transit plans to begin design work for the  
37 New Jersey portion of the project in 2006 and could start  
38 construction in 2008 and complete the New Jersey portion in 2011,  
39 with rail passenger service beginning in New Jersey by 2012; and

40 **WHEREAS**, It is in the interest of the health, safety, and general welfare  
41 of the residents of northeastern Pennsylvania and northern New  
42 Jersey and the commuters who will use the service for this  
43 restoration project to progress as quickly as possible; and

44 **WHEREAS**, The Lackawanna Cutoff rail passenger service restoration  
45 project can best be completed in its entirety and in a timely manner  
46 if all those who have a role in the project work together in a spirit of  
47 diligent cooperation and make completion of the project a priority;  
48 now, therefore,

1       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*  
2 *Jersey:*

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4       1. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Federal Transit  
5 Administration, and the New Jersey Transit Corporation are  
6 respectfully urged to work together in a spirit of cooperation to  
7 complete the Lackawanna Cutoff rail passenger service restoration  
8 project and to make the completion of the project a priority.

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10       2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the  
11 Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof,  
12 shall be transmitted to the Governor and each member of the  
13 Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the  
14 Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration in the United  
15 States Department of Transportation, and the Chairman of the  
16 Board and the Executive Director of the New Jersey Transit  
17 Corporation.

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STATEMENT

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22       This Assembly resolution respectfully urges the Commonwealth  
23 of Pennsylvania, the Federal Transit Administration, and the New  
24 Jersey Transit Corporation to work together in a spirit of diligent  
25 cooperation to complete the Lackawanna Cutoff rail passenger  
26 service restoration project and to make completion of the project a  
27 priority. The project will provide rail passenger service from  
28 Scranton, Pennsylvania through northern New Jersey and into New  
29 York City.

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31       Restoring rail passenger service to these rapidly growing areas  
32 will help reduce motor vehicle traffic congestion and its resulting  
33 pollution. It is in the interests of the health, safety, and general  
34 welfare of the residents of northeastern Pennsylvania and northern  
35 New Jersey and the commuters who will use the service to complete  
this mass transit project as quickly as possible.