

2016 -- S 2858

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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JOINT RESOLUTION

STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE PAWTUCKET AND CENTRAL FALLS COMMUTER  
RAIL STATION

Introduced By: Senators Crowley, Nesselbush, Doyle, and Conley

Date Introduced: March 23, 2016

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1           WHEREAS, Growing Rhode Island's economy is of paramount importance to the future  
2 vitality and stability of our state; and

3           WHEREAS, As a whole, the state is only as strong as the cities and towns within its  
4 borders; and

5           WHEREAS, Rhode Island's inner cities and towns are struggling to revitalize and  
6 rebuild, and improvements in transportation infrastructure are urgently needed and are an  
7 essential component in the success of this necessary pursuit; and

8           WHEREAS, The proposed Pawtucket & Central Falls Commuter Rail Station is a "Once-  
9 in-a-Generation Opportunity to Catalyze and Grow The Blackstone Valley Economy"; and

10           WHEREAS, The proposed commuter rail station would be located on the  
11 Pawtucket/Central Falls line, on Amtrak's Northeast Corridor and the Massachusetts Bay  
12 Transportation Authority's (MBTA) Providence commuter rail line, and would provide tens of  
13 thousands of commuters with a critical transportation link between Rhode Island and neighboring  
14 states and much needed jobs; and

15           WHEREAS, In addition, the new station would expand educational opportunities and  
16 leisure activities for Rhode Islanders, would provide hundreds of construction jobs and service  
17 jobs, would increase property values in transit-rich neighborhoods, and would help to alleviate  
18 congestion at the Providence and South Attleboro stations; and

19           WHEREAS, Preliminary planning and engineering, as well as environmental review have

1 been thoroughly vetted by a core team including, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation,  
2 the Federal Transit Authority, and representatives from the cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, A multi-year plan, requiring funding for the station site acquisition and  
5 construction, and the necessary design, coordination, regulatory review of the Station Project are  
6 the next steps in building a competitive edge towards financial security and prosperity for our  
7 communities and the citizens of our state; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence  
9 Plantations hereby strongly supports the Pawtucket & Central Falls Commuter Rail Station  
10 Project; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
12 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Mayor of the City of Pawtucket, the Mayor  
13 of the City of Central Falls, and the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation.

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