

facilities, and better utilizing the railroads in our overall transportation plan.

Under the provisions of the Rail Reorganization Act of 1973, states wishing to participate in the Rail Service Continuation Subsidy Program must prepare a rail transportation plan for submission to the Federal Railroad Administration.

The State Rail Plan, currently being formulated, will have grave and far-reaching effects on almost every aspect of economic, industrial, social, and environmental life in Maryland. Therefore, it is imperative that the interests of agricultural, industrial, environmental, and general citizens [[have input in the Plan]] be considered in formulating the Plan, which can be accomplished through consultation with the Legislative Council of the General Assembly.

[[A Railroad Task Force, appointed by the Governor, should also address itself to recommending legislation aimed at State and local governments' picking up railroad rights of way of those lines which must be abandoned. The rights of way are too valuable an asset to be ignored, and they should be preserved for future use as recreational facilities and open space projects.]]

Furthermore, the [[Task Force]] Department of Transportation should recognize the "importance of retaining the rail lines," which are the backbone of the [[Eastern Shore]] State economy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the [[Governor]] Secretary of Transportation be requested to [[appoint a Railroad Task Force to represent the interests of general citizens in]] review with the Legislative Council of the General Assembly, prior to finalizing, the State Rail Plan now being formulated by the State Department of Transportation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to [[the Honorable Marvin Mandel, Governor, State House, Annapolis]] Secretary Harry Hughes, Department of Transportation, P. O. Box 8755, Baltimore-Washington International Airport, Baltimore, Maryland 21240.

Approved May 15, 1975.