

# **RESOLUTIONS OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA**

## **RESOLUTION NO. 19965**

### **A RESOLUTION DECLARING SUPPORT FOR MONTANA RAIL LINK**

**WHEREAS**, Montana Rail Link (MRL) is the largest short-line railroad in the United States and operates 937 miles of track from Huntley, MT, to Sandpoint, ID; and

**WHEREAS**, MRL employs 950 people in the State of Montana at an average annual salary of \$67,000; and

**WHEREAS**, 90% of these jobs are union; and

**WHEREAS**, total payroll in 2011 equaled \$63 million; and

**WHEREAS**, MRL employs nearly 100 people in the Helena area; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic impact of increased rail traffic enhances employment opportunities for Montana workers and results in the payment of additional income, payroll, and property taxes to state and local governments in the State of Montana; and

**WHEREAS**, MRL connects Montana businesses with domestic and international markets; and

**WHEREAS**, MRL services 17 customers in the Helena area and ships 4,850 carloads annually for these businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, MRL purchases supplies and services from Helena area businesses totaling \$10.4 million annually, including construction materials, fuel, hotels, meals, transportation, and mechanical services; and

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**WHEREAS**, MRL paid \$500,000 in 2011 taxes to Lewis & Clark County; and

**WHEREAS**, MRL paid nearly \$9 million in property taxes to the State of Montana in 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, MRL employees paid nearly \$2 million in state income taxes in 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, MRL contributed significantly to charitable organizations throughout Montana, including Helena; and

**WHEREAS**, MRL and the Helena community have partnered in the past, and desire to partner in the future, on economic development and community projects.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA:**

**Section 1.** The City Commission of Helena, Montana, recognizes the importance of Montana Rail Link to the local economy and the State of Montana.

**PASSED AND EFFECTIVE BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA, THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2012.**

**ATTEST:**

/S/ James E. Smith  
**MAYOR**

/S/ Debbie Havens  
**CLERK OF THE COMMISSION**