

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 908

Commending Steve MacIsaac.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, April 2, 2025

WHEREAS, Steve MacIsaac, a resident of the City of Falls Church, has worked tirelessly to support the creation, expansion, and funding of public transportation options within the greater Northern Virginia Region for four decades; and

WHEREAS, Steve MacIsaac was tasked in 1985 as an assistant county attorney in Prince William County to support the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) in establishing the Virginia Railway Express (VRE); and

WHEREAS, Steve MacIsaac was instrumental in the 1986 founding of the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) to ensure broader geographical support and funding for VRE's establishment, and in PRTC's 1990 acquisition of COMMUTERIDE bus service (rebranded as OmniRide) from Prince William County and its eventual expansion; and

WHEREAS, Steve MacIsaac ultimately served as PRTC's acting executive director from July 1997 to November 1998; and

WHEREAS, Steve MacIsaac drafted a master agreement, approved by NVTC and PRTC in 1989, establishing the commuter rail service and its operations board and identifying the roles and responsibilities of the two commissions and six jurisdictions; he subsequently amended the agreement five times to allow for the participation of three additional jurisdictions and to make changes to jurisdictional contributions; and

WHEREAS, Steve MacIsaac successfully navigated seemingly insurmountable legal hurdles related to issues of indemnification, insurance, funding, operations, facility construction, and rolling-stock procurement to allow for the launch of VRE service in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Steve MacIsaac served as VRE's acting chief executive officer from June 2000 to August 2000, ensuring continuity of operations during a time of transition, and he began negotiating a series of agreements with host railroads that allowed VRE to expand service in exchange for the financing of infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, Steve MacIsaac joined Arlington County in 2000 as its county attorney, while continuing his long association with VRE and NVTC; and

WHEREAS, Steve MacIsaac provided legal support to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority from its inception in 2002 and served on its Council of Counsels through 2021; and

WHEREAS, as NVTC's legal counsel, Steve MacIsaac was instrumental in the creation of funding agreements with the Commonwealth establishing the I-66 Commuter Choice program in 2015 and I-395 Commuter Choice program in 2017, which use toll revenues to fund public transportation in the greater Northern Virginia Region; and

WHEREAS, having been retained as VRE's general counsel and chief legal officer in 2021, Steve MacIsaac represented VRE in negotiations between the Commonwealth and Norfolk Southern Railroad for the purchase of the Manassas Line, which provided a solution to midday train storage issues and opportunities to expand VRE service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Steve MacIsaac hereby be commended for his 40 years of dedicated service to the people of Virginia to ensure their access to safe, reliable, and convenient public transportation; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Steve MacIsaac as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for his successful efforts to transform the public transportation landscape in the Commonwealth.

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