[Urging the California Public Utilities Commission and the Federal Railroad Administration to adopt regulations to ensure that the safety of the citizens of the city and county of San Francisco is not at risk due to the use of remote control locomotives.]

Resolution urging the California Public Utilities Commission and the Federal Railroad Administration to adopt regulations to ensure that the safety of the citizens of the city and county of San Francisco is not at risk due to the use of remote control locomotives.

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors has a duty to provide for the public safety of its Citizens; and

WHEREAS, the city and county of San Francisco has received information that a pilot program has been initiated relating to the use of remote control locomotives across the nation including cities in California; and,

WHEREAS, operation of a railroad is traditionally conducted with the use of locomotives manned by experienced, highly trained individuals who are required to be certified prior to operating the locomotive; and,

WHEREAS, railroads have been granted permission from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to operate remote controlled locomotives by less trained, tested, and qualified individuals; and,

WHEREAS, Freight hauling railroads doing business within the city and county of San Francisco operate on tracks adjacent to and connecting with tracks carrying commuter passenger trains; and,

WHEREAS, Freight hauling railroads doing business within the city and county of San Francisco operate through high-density urban areas, over numerous public and private crossings accessible to persons of all ages and abilities; and,
WHEREAS, the use of remote control locomotives is known to present significant dangers to persons and property from the possibility of collisions, derailments, and release of hazardous materials due to the lack of a trained employee on the leading end of the train; and,  
WHEREAS, the United States government has issued a safety alert with respect to vandalism and terrorist threats against railroads; and,  
WHEREAS, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors believes that it is not in the best interest of our Citizens to see this technology put into place without thorough and comprehensive regulations; now, therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the California Public Utilities Commission and the Federal Railroad Administration to adopt regulations to ensure that the safety of the citizens of the city and county of San Francisco is not at risk due to the use of remote control locomotives.
Resolution urging the California Public Utilities Commission and the Federal Railroad Administration to adopt regulations to ensure that the safety of the citizens of the City and County of San Francisco is not at risk due to the use of remote control locomotives.

March 16, 2004 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Gonzalez, Hall, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Peskin, Sandoval

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on March 16, 2004 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Date Approved: MAR 19 2004

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Mayor Gavin Newsom