

By: Campbell, et al.

H.C.R. No. 82

Substitute the following for H.C.R. No. 82:

By: Mercer

C.S.H.C.R. No. 82

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, An integrated, safe, and adequately financed
2 transportation system is a critical component of the economic,
3 social, and environmental well-being of both the United States and
4 Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, The Highway Trust Fund was established by the
6 Highway Revenue Act of 1956 as a mechanism to finance an accelerated
7 highway program, including the Interstate Highway System; the
8 revenues used to finance the trust fund are derived from federal
9 excise taxes on highway motor fuel and certain truck-related taxes
10 collected from motorists in all 50 states and paid into the federal
11 Highway Trust Fund; and

12 WHEREAS, Federal law requires that the money paid into the
13 trust fund be returned to the states in accordance with
14 legislatively established formulas that are recalculated every six
15 years in reauthorization legislation; most recently the
16 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) was passed
17 in 1998; and

18 WHEREAS, Due to funding disparities, 26 states, known as
19 donor states, receive less than their fair share of the federal fuel
20 taxes that their citizens have paid into the trust fund; from 1956
21 to 2001, Texas received only an average rate of return of 78 percent
22 on the funds sent to Washington; and

23 WHEREAS, Currently, the United States Congress is drafting
24 legislation to reauthorize TEA-21, which guaranteed a minimum rate

1 of return of 90.5 percent; a coalition of the donor states seeks a
2 guaranteed rate of return of 95 percent of their share of
3 contributions to the federal Highway Trust Fund, calculated against
4 all dollars being distributed to the 50 states; and

5 WHEREAS, A 95 percent rate of return would allow Texas to
6 better address its highway construction, repair, and maintenance
7 needs; highway projects enhance mobility, improve air quality,
8 foster economic development, and support thousands of jobs in
9 Texas; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
11 hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to
12 provide equity funding to Texas by increasing the rate of return
13 from the Highway Trust Fund to 95 percent of Texas' contributions to
14 the fund; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
16 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
17 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
18 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
19 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
20 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
21 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.