

By: Campbell

H.C.R. No. 82

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 legislative  
14 established formulas that are recalculated every six years in  
15 reauthorization legislation; most recently the Transportation  
16 Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) was passed in 1998; and

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

22 WHEREAS, Currently, Congress is drafting legislation to  
23 reauthorize TEA-21, which guaranteed a minimum rate of return of  
24 90.5 percent; a coalition of the donor states seek a guaranteed rate

1 of return of 95 percent of their share of contributions to the  
2 federal Highway Trust Fund, calculated against all dollars being  
3 distributed to the 50 states; and

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

9 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
10 hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to  
11 provide equity funding to all states by increasing the rate of  
12 return from the Highway Trust Fund to 95 percent of all dollars  
13 being distributed to the states; and, be it further

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