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H.C.R. No. 147

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Texas is experiencing dramatic economic and  
2 population growth, bringing in top companies and some of the  
3 greatest talent in the nation, yet it is facing great challenges in  
4 creating and maintaining the transportation system that Texans  
5 need; and

6           WHEREAS, Texas continues to endure a structural funding  
7 inequity that results in the state consistently receiving less than  
8 its fair share of federal transportation dollars; and

9           WHEREAS, According to the Federal Highway Administration, in  
10 federal fiscal year 2019, Texas is the only "donor" state,  
11 receiving only 95 cents back for every dollar it sends to Washington  
12 in federal fuel taxes; and

13           WHEREAS, The inequity of being the only "donor" state  
14 amounted to a loss of up to \$940 million by Texas motorists in  
15 federal fiscal year 2019, with Texas taxpayers being forced to pay  
16 for infrastructure in other states; and

17           WHEREAS, In federal fiscal year 2019, Texas was the only  
18 state not to receive any benefit from the billions of dollars in  
19 general fund revenue and other federal sources transferred to the  
20 highway trust fund; and

21           WHEREAS, Congress uses 2000 census data in its formula  
22 funding, and in 2000, the Texas population was 20 million; it has  
23 since grown by nearly 50 percent and is now estimated at over 29  
24 million; and

1           WHEREAS, While the Texas congressional delegation has worked  
2 to protect the state's dollars and improve Texas' "rate of return"  
3 for many years, nearly two decades of population growth is not  
4 reflected in the distribution of federal transportation dollars,  
5 since Congress stopped updating performance inputs for the formulas  
6 used for distributing federal aid apportionments and allocations to  
7 states out of the highway trust fund account; and

8           WHEREAS, This imbalance weakens Texas' ability to provide a  
9 safe transportation system, develop and build local projects,  
10 address traffic congestion, move freight efficiently across the  
11 state, and maintain the infrastructure that Texans deserve; now,  
12 therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas  
14 hereby respectfully urge the U.S. Congress to work collectively  
15 toward a fair, equitable, and logical approach to federal  
16 transportation funding in any new federal transportation  
17 legislation that Congress considers; and, be it further

18           RESOLVED, That provisions in legislation should include but  
19 not be limited to:

20           (a) Adjustments to ensure that each state receives an  
21 aggregate apportionment equal to at least 95 percent of the  
22 percentage of estimated tax payments attributable to highway users  
23 in the state paid into the highway trust fund (other than the Mass  
24 Transit Account) in the most recent fiscal year for which data are  
25 available; and

26           (b) Updating of federal formulas for distributing funding  
27 to states to include current data and metrics, including the most

1 recent decennial census; and, be it further

2           RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
3 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
4 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of  
5 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
6 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that  
7 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
8 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.