

By: Landgraf

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.