
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4042

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1992 Regular Session

By Representative R. Fisher

Read first time 03/05/92. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, Increasing traffic congestion, decreased air quality, and
10 both the actual and perceived impacts of single occupant vehicle travel
11 are increasingly serious problems in our nation's cities; and

12 WHEREAS, Public transportation and shared ride alternatives are
13 increasingly critical elements in both the infrastructure and the
14 quality of life of our nation's cities; and

1 WHEREAS, The primary form of public transportation is and will
2 continue to be provided using standard production model urban transit
3 buses; and

4 WHEREAS, Urban transit buses have continued to evolve to address
5 customer comfort, accessibility, safety, longevity, ease of operation
6 and maintenance, and both energy and environmental sensitivity; and

7 WHEREAS, The vast majority of urban transit buses are purchased
8 using combinations of federal grant funds and both state and local
9 assistance; and

10 WHEREAS, The suppliers and operators of the nation's urban transit
11 buses must simultaneously comply with a complex array of federal,
12 state, and local laws, mandates, and regulations; and

13 WHEREAS, The combination of customer demands and expectations,
14 local operating conditions, and adherence to all regulatory
15 requirements, has caused the overall weight of standard production
16 urban transit buses to continue to increase, in many cases beyond that
17 allowed by current federal and state laws; and

18 WHEREAS, The combined goals, operations, and regulatory
19 requirements on the public transportation industry have come into
20 marked conflict with each other; and

21 WHEREAS, It is in the nation's interest to preserve and enhance the
22 viability of the mass transportation infrastructure in our cities and
23 towns; and

24 WHEREAS, The State of Washington and its public transportation
25 industry wish to work cooperatively with the federal government to
26 resolve the issues related to overweight urban transit buses;

27 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
28 Congress act to assure necessary coordination and assistance from the
29 Federal Transportation Administration and the Federal Highway
30 Administration on the issue of overweight urban transit buses from a

1 national perspective. Such intervention would help resolve the growing
2 conflicts of federal statutory and regulatory requirements for design,
3 safety, and operating features that have increased urban transit bus
4 weight. Both manufacturers and mass transit providers urgently need
5 consistent nation-wide interpretation which is realistic, cost-
6 effective, and sensitive to the growing dilemma being faced at the
7 local operating level.

8 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
9 transmitted to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
10 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of
11 Transportation, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
12 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
13 State of Washington.