
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4028

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Mitchell and Fisher

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, RODNEY E. SLATER:

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, Almost 11,000 miles of Washington State's urban highways
10 and arterials were rated as seriously congested by the Federal Highway
11 Administration; and

12 WHEREAS, Washington State was ranked by the Federal Highway
13 Administration as having the second-worst urban congestion level in the
14 nation in terms of average daily traffic per urban lane; and

15 WHEREAS, Washington State was ranked by the Federal Highway
16 Administration as having the third-worst level of urban interstate
17 congestion in terms of the percentage of urban lanes congested; and

18 WHEREAS, Almost two-thirds of Washington's interstate highway
19 system was rated as seriously congested; and

20 WHEREAS, A federally funded, national study by the Texas
21 Transportation Institute ranks the Central Puget Sound metropolitan

1 area in a three-way tie for worst rush hour traffic among 70 regions in
2 the nation; and

3 WHEREAS, Washington State's Blue Ribbon Commission on
4 Transportation has recognized that traffic congestion in Washington
5 State wastes time and resources worth over two billion dollars each
6 year; and

7 WHEREAS, The annual cost of congestion, in terms of dollars per
8 driver, in Washington State's four largest metropolitan areas has grown
9 at average annual rates of over ten percent per year; and

10 WHEREAS, Washington State's Blue Ribbon Commission on
11 Transportation has recognized that Washington residents waste 130
12 million hours each year in congestion-related delays; and

13 WHEREAS, President Clinton, in his recent budget proposal, has
14 redirected 1.3 billion dollars in highway funds from the several states
15 to federal programs; and

16 WHEREAS, This will result in a loss of 23 million dollars of
17 federal transportation money to Washington State; and

18 WHEREAS, This redirected money comes from a surplus of over
19 estimated federal gas tax revenues, a surplus proportionally created by
20 the taxes paid by the citizens of Washington State; and

21 WHEREAS, The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century clearly
22 states that all gas tax revenues will be preserved for transportation
23 improvements, and that should tax revenues be higher than anticipated,
24 each state would receive a proportional share of the surplus;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that President
26 William J. Clinton restore the 1.3 billion dollars in highway funds to
27 the states in his proposed budget, and that the Congress of the United
28 States of America restore said funds, and return to the people of
29 Washington those federal taxes they have paid to support
30 transportation, in order that those funds directly support
31 transportation improvements in Washington State.

32 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
33 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
34 United States, Rodney E. Slater, the Secretary of the United States
35 Department of Transportation, the President of the United States
36 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of
37 Congress from the State of Washington.

--- END ---