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SENATE BILL 5034

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Rasmussen and Barr.

Read first time January 16, 1991. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to highways; directing construction of a Naches  
2 Pass tunnel; adding new sections to Title 47 RCW; creating a new  
3 section; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) The Washington state highway commission and the Washington toll  
7 bridge authority, now combined under the department of transportation  
8 and the transportation commission, were authorized and directed,  
9 originally in 1959, to act jointly with the joint fact-finding  
10 committee on highways, streets, and bridges to determine the  
11 feasibility of undertaking construction of a Naches cut-off and tunnel  
12 on state route No. 410 through the Cascade mountains;

13 (2) The state highway commission, toll bridge authority, and the  
14 joint fact-finding committee were further authorized and directed to

1 engage and retain an independent engineering firm to prepare traffic,  
2 engineering, and financial studies and surveys;

3 (3) The state highway commission has been previously granted the  
4 necessary authority to acquire rights of way and to proceed with the  
5 construction of the Naches tunnel;

6 (4) The increased volume of intermountain cross-state traffic in  
7 the past thirty years and future projected increases point up the  
8 desirability and imperative need for an additional all-weather highway  
9 through the Cascade mountains; and such a cross-Cascade connection  
10 would greatly enhance the overall economy of the state, speed cross-  
11 state travel without mountain pass delays, and enhance the growing  
12 tourism and destination resort skiing industries; and

13 (5) An all-weather, year-round Cascade crossing would reduce  
14 highway traffic fatalities and provide highway transportation and  
15 private vehicle time saving between the eastern and western areas of  
16 the state, along with transportation fuel economy.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to Title 47 RCW to  
18 read as follows:

19 The Washington state transportation commission shall complete its  
20 plan for a Naches Pass tunnel with dispatch, and the department shall  
21 commence immediate construction of a Naches Pass tunnel and cut-off on  
22 state route No. 410 through the Cascade mountains.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to Title 47 RCW to  
24 read as follows:

25 The state department of transportation shall forthwith select and  
26 acquire, by purchase or condemnation, such lands as may be necessary to  
27 accomplish the directive given in section 2 of this act, and shall

1 forthwith do all other acts and things necessary to carry out the  
2 purposes of this act without delay.

3       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 4.**       This act is necessary for the immediate  
4 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
5 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
6 effect immediately.