



HJ0047

LRB097 13885 HEP 58457 r

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Federal-Aid Highway Program provides formula
3 grants that assist in the planning and development of an
4 integrated, interconnected transportation system by enabling
5 state transportation agencies to construct and rehabilitate
6 the national highway system; and

7 WHEREAS, The Highway Trust Fund is the source of funds for
8 the Federal-Aid Highway Program; the Highway Trust Fund is
9 funded mostly through the 18.4 cent-per-gallon federal tax on
10 gasoline sales; the federal government spends roughly \$50
11 billion a year on transportation projects through the Highway
12 Trust Fund; and

13 WHEREAS, Federal law requires that funds paid into the
14 Highway Trust Fund be returned to the states for various
15 highway program areas in accordance with legislatively
16 established formulas; each state is guaranteed a return of at
17 least 92% of its highway user percentage attributions to the
18 Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund; and

19 WHEREAS, Higher prices at the pump and a weak economy have
20 caused gasoline sales to drop; the U.S. Congressional Budget
21 Office projects the trust fund could run dry by the summer or
22 fall of 2012 because it has spent more money than it has taken

1 in; and

2 WHEREAS, Previous funding levels and processes of federal
3 aid to state highway systems were traditionally set for a
4 period of 6 years, which allowed for a predictable amount to be
5 budgeted for transportation projects; and

6 WHEREAS, Current proposals in Congress have proposed
7 changes to funding formulas, causing uncertainty in planning;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, It is critical to provide adequate and predictable
10 funding levels to ensure safe and well-maintained roads and
11 bridges; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
14 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge Congress to ensure that
15 the Highway Trust Fund is fully funded and to restore
16 traditional 6-year funding levels; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
18 delivered to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of
19 Transportation; the Secretary of the Illinois Department of
20 Transportation; the majority and minority leaders of the United
21 States Senate, the Speaker and minority leader of the United

1 States House of Representatives, to each member of the Illinois
2 congressional delegation, and to President Obama.