

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 752

By Hill

A RESOLUTION relative to federal fuel tax revenues apportioned to the states from the Highway Trust Fund.

WHEREAS, Tennessee and approximately two dozen other donor states pay far more fuel taxes into the federal Highway Trust Fund than they receive in return; and

WHEREAS, under this perverse form of trickle-up economics, Congress utilizes a flawed formula, developed in 1956, to determine the amount of federal fuel tax revenues each state receives; and

WHEREAS, because donor states, which are primarily located in the South and the economically battered Great Lakes region, receive far less in federal fuel tax revenues than they pay into the Highway Trust Fund, billions of dollars are effectively transferred to donee states, primarily located in the wealthier states of New England and the Middle Atlantic regions, that receive more in federal fuel tax revenues than they pay into the Fund; and

WHEREAS, since the federal surface transportation law has expired and must be newly authorized, now is the perfect time for Congress to address this inequity by either significantly modifying or completely repealing the flawed formula for apportioning federal fuel tax revenues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly hereby memorializes the United States Congress in authorizing a new federal surface transportation law to modify the formula used to apportion federal fuel tax revenues from the Highway Trust Fund to provide that each state receives an amount of federal fuel tax revenues equal to the amount of fuel taxes such state pays into the Fund on an annual basis, or in the alternative, repeal such formula, permit each state to retain

all federal fuel taxes it collects from motorists within its borders, and authorize each state to be responsible for funding its own transportation programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; the President and the Secretary of the U.S. Senate; and each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.