

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
 3 urging Congress to establish block grant funding for
 4 the federal-aid highway program and discontinue
 5 federal transportation mandates requiring certain
 6 actions in order to maintain federal funding
 7 eligibility.

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 9 WHEREAS, Americans are a highly mobile people who depend on
 10 reliable and effective transportation infrastructure to travel
 11 to and from work, conduct business, access affordable housing,
 12 and participate in recreational activities in their communities,
 13 and

14 WHEREAS, chronic congestion that plagues the country's
 15 network of surface transportation infrastructure such as roads
 16 and bridges ultimately impairs the mobility of Americans, and

17 WHEREAS, the Federal role in highway transportation has
 18 gradually usurped the role of the States, and

19 WHEREAS, the Federal Government has used the Federal motor
 20 fuels tax revenues to force all States to take actions that are
 21 not necessarily appropriate for an individual State, and

22 WHEREAS, Federal mandates that apply to all States,
 23 regardless of the unique conditions and needs of the States,
 24 require the States to dedicate billions of tax dollars for

25 | projects, programs, and activities that the States would not
 26 | otherwise undertake, and

27 | WHEREAS, current Federal transportation funding programs
 28 | generate cross-subsidies between States and between modes of
 29 | transportation, and

30 | WHEREAS, each State has the responsibility of providing an
 31 | efficient transportation network for the residents of that
 32 | State, and

33 | WHEREAS, each State is best capable of determining the
 34 | needs of the State and acting on those needs, and

35 | WHEREAS, the Federal Government has acknowledged the
 36 | benefits of empowering state transportation decision-making
 37 | through the creation of the Surface Transportation Block Grant
 38 | Program to allow more flexible funding to best address state and
 39 | local transportation needs, and

40 | WHEREAS, the Federal Government has also recognized the
 41 | ability of States to assume responsibility for environmental
 42 | review of their transportation projects as required under the
 43 | National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and

44 | WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature, which is directly
 45 | accountable to the citizens of Florida, is the appropriate body
 46 | to determine transportation funding priorities that best serve
 47 | the transportation needs of its citizens, NOW, THEREFORE,

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 49 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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51 (1) That the Congress of the United States is urged to
52 empower States to promote innovative, cost-effective solutions
53 to address our nation's transportation problems;

54 (2) That in furtherance of this objective the Congress of
55 the United States establish block grant funding for surface
56 transportation systems that provide States with maximum
57 discretionary authority and responsibility for the construction,
58 operation, and maintenance of such systems;

59 (3) That this memorial specifically urges the Congress of
60 the United States to authorize the Federal-aid highway program
61 be allocated to the States in the form of block grants to
62 provide States with greater control and flexibility; and

63 (4) That this memorial serves as a notice and demand for
64 the prohibition of federal programs that incentivize states to
65 take certain actions in order to maintain federal transportation
66 funding eligibility.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
68 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
69 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
70 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
71 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.