

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1991**
4 **By: Representative Doug Wood**

H.C.R.

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7 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

8 CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
9 TO MAKE THE HIGHWAY AND AVIATION TRUST FUNDS PERMANENT AND
10 TO REMOVE THEM FROM THE FEDERAL UNIFIED BUDGET SO THEY
11 WILL NOT BE USED AS DEFICIT REDUCTION MEASURES IN THE
12 FUTURE.

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14 WHEREAS, large scale rehabilitation, repair and capacity improvements
15 are ongoing necessities of the national highway and airway transportation
16 systems with these systems being two (2) of the most critical components of
17 the physical infrastructure of the United States of America; and

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19 WHEREAS, there is a growing and concentrated national consensus for
20 programs to serve the country's highway and airway transportation needs
21 through the year 2020 and it is evident that high quality highways and
22 airports are critical to the ability of manufacturers to build and deliver
23 products and the ability of states and communities to attract new industry and
24 to sustain economic growth; and

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26 WHEREAS, the competitive position of states and the nation in
27 international trade is directly related to the quality of access airports and
28 the interstate highway system and the physical condition of airports and
29 interstate and primary highways and current national policy makes no provision
30 for continuing the Federal-Aid Highway Program into the future; and

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32 WHEREAS, in all recent federal-aid highway acts, the Congress of the
33 United States has been required to include provisions for extending the
34 highway trust fund and the taxes which fund it resulting in a buildup of the
35 highway trust fund that has occurred in part because of obligational ceilings,

1 which have limited the amounts states could commit each year to transportation
2 projects; and

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4 WHEREAS, federal highway trust funds have been supported historically
5 from federal taxes on motor fuels utilized by highway users and in recent
6 years, the aviation and highway trust funds have been included in the
7 sequestration of funds and are being used as a means to reduce the federal
8 deficit; and

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10 WHEREAS, the removal of the highway trust fund from the federal unified
11 budget would provide more than ten billion dollars (\$10,000,000,000) for
12 transportation, approximately one hundred and four million (\$104,000,000) of
13 which would derive to the State of Arkansas which is so vitally needed by the
14 state; and

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16 WHEREAS, the removal of the airport and airway trust fund from the
17 federal unified budget would provide approximately eight billion dollars
18 (\$8,000,000,000) for modernization of airports and other improvements in the
19 nation's aviation system;

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21 NOW THEREFORE,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL
23 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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25 THAT the members of the Arkansas General Assembly call upon the
26 President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to make
27 permanent the highway trust fund and the aviation trust fund and the user fees
28 accruing to them, to ensure reliable funding sources are available for
29 constructing, rehabilitating, and otherwise improving the highways, bridges
30 and airports which are so essential to the vigor of the State of Arkansas and
31 the national economy;

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the United States and the
34 Congress of the United States shall protect the highway trust fund and the
35 aviation trust fund from predatory proposals that divert users revenues to

1 programs entirely unrelated to the transportation purposes for which these
2 trust funds were established;

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Congress of the United States shall
5 remove the federal highway trust fund and the aviation trust fund from the
6 federal unified budget, release the sequestered transportation trust funds and
7 remove forever the specter of using dedicated highway or aviation funds for
8 budget-reducing measures, thus making those funds available for that which
9 they are collected and intended, the nation's infrastructure;

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted by
12 the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to the President of the United
13 States, the President of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker of the
14 House of Representatives of the United States and to each member of the
15 Arkansas Congressional Delegation.

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