

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

HCR 1009

4
5 By: Representatives G. Smith, Lowery, Hardy
6 By: Senator G. Jeffress

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9 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

10 RECOMMENDING THAT THE CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENT OF
11 THE UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF THE
12 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AND THE DIRECTOR OF
13 THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION ENSURE THAT A
14 SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION
15 INFRASTRUCTURE BE COMMITTED TO COMPLETE
16 CONSTRUCTION OF INTERSTATE 69 (I-69) IN ARKANSAS.

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18 **Subtitle**

19 RECOMMENDING THAT A SIGNIFICANT PORTION
20 OF FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION
21 INFRASTRUCTURE BE COMMITTED TO COMPLETE
22 CONSTRUCTION OF I-69 IN ARKANSAS.

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25 WHEREAS, the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act
26 (ISTEA) identified several high priority corridors of national significance,
27 including Interstate 69 (I-69) which is part of the congressionally
28 designated High Priority Corridors 18 and 20; and

29
30 WHEREAS, the total length of I-69, including all proposed connectors
31 and the existing route in Indiana and Michigan, is now approximately two
32 thousand seven hundred thirty (2,730) miles in length with an estimated cost
33 between twenty billion dollars (\$20,000,000,000) and twenty-two billion
34 dollars (\$22,000,000,000); and

35
36 WHEREAS, to make the I-69 project more manageable, the states and the



1 Federal Highway Administration have divided Corridors 18 and 20 into thirty-
2 two (32) "Sections of Independent Utility", or "SIUs", that will function
3 independently even if the entire project is not completed; and
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5 WHEREAS, the total estimated cost to construct approximately one
6 hundred eighty-five (185) miles of I-69 in Arkansas is two billion four
7 hundred million dollars (\$2,400,000,000); and
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9 WHEREAS, the mileage for I-69 in Arkansas includes the route from Pine
10 Bluff to the Highway 278 connector, which is approximately thirty-nine (39)
11 miles in length and Arkansas's portion of the Great River Bridge, which is
12 the I-69 Mississippi River crossing and is approximately sixteen (16) miles
13 in length; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Great River Bridge near Arkansas City has been designed,
16 the State Highway Commission has authorized the acquisition of the right-of-
17 way, and if additional federal funding is made available, construction could
18 begin immediately after the required United States Coast Guard permits are
19 obtained for this project; and
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21 WHEREAS, early studies have shown that for every dollar invested in I-
22 69, the economic benefits will be one dollar and fifty-seven cents (\$1.57),
23 which is a fifty-seven percent (57%) return on the investment; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation
26 Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) expires on September 30, 2009,
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28 NOW THEREFORE,

29 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH GENERAL
30 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:
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32 THAT the General Assembly recommends to the Congress of the United
33 States, the Arkansas Congressional Delegation, the President of the United
34 States, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, and the Director
35 of the Federal Highway Administration that a significant portion of funding
36 for transportation infrastructure be committed to complete construction of I-

1 69 in Arkansas including the Great River Bridge.

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3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, the Chief
4 Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this
5 resolution to the presiding officers of the United States Senate and the
6 United State House of Representatives; each member of the Arkansas
7 Congressional Delegation; the President of the United States; the Secretary
8 of the Department of Transportation; and the Director of the Federal Highway
9 Administration.

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