

STATE OF ALASKA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1989

Source

HR 8

House

Resolve No.

5



Relating to support for public transportation in Alaska, for the Rural Transportation Equity Act of 1989, and opposition to reduction of the Urban Mass Transit Administration's 1990 budget proposal.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

WHEREAS in addition to the transit system found in Alaska's largest city, Anchorage, most of the medium size cities and many rural communities have bus and van lines supported only by state and local resources; and

WHEREAS there is a substantial imbalance in the funding authorized by the Congress for transportation services in urban and rural areas; and

WHEREAS under present law, communities with populations under 50,000 receive less than three percent of the transit funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS the Congress should be concerned about public transportation generally and not only urban transportation; and

WHEREAS in 1989 the Congress offered only \$66,200,000 in mass transit funds to rural America while making more than \$168,000,000 available to Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS legislation has been introduced in the Congress that would double the share of Urban Mass Transit Administration (UMTA) Section 18 grants for the construction and operation of public transit systems in communities of fewer than 50,000 people; and

WHEREAS the legislation would also establish a state-administered block grant program for rural areas and small cities and seek federal subsidies for "essential bus service" on otherwise unprofitable bus routes; and

WHEREAS a doubling of the funds available would still not represent equity to the rural areas because that doubling would involve only six percent of amounts available under UMTA's formula grant budget; and

WHEREAS the Administration has proposed a 50 percent reduction in UMTA's 1990 budget proposal;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives supports the Rural Transportation Equity Act of 1989 and the concept that equity requires the rural areas of the Nation to receive a proportionate amount of the funds made available by the Congress for public transportation; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives opposes the Administration's proposal to decrease the amounts available for public transportation.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.