

1 IN THE SENATE

BY COGHILL AND JONES

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 59

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Requesting the Congress to remove the

6

Highway Trust Fund and the Airport and

7

Airway Trust Fund from the Unified

8

Federal Budget.

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10

WHEREAS the Alaska Legislature believes it is inappropriate that the

11

dedicated trust funds for highways and airports are subject to the Unified

12

Federal Budget process; and

13

WHEREAS the highway and airport trust funds are funded by user fees

14

collected in advance of expenditure and are dedicated to highway and air-

15

port improvement programs; and

16

WHEREAS, at the national level, the Highway Trust Fund can support an

17

annual spending level of over \$15,000,000,000 and the Airport and Airway

18

Trust Fund can support an annual spending level of \$5,000,000,000; and

19

WHEREAS inclusion in the Unified Federal Budget has limited appro-

20

priations from the Highway Trust Fund to less than \$13,000,000,000 a year

21

and appropriations from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund to approximately

22

\$3,500,000,000 a year; and

23

WHEREAS the inclusion of appropriations from the highway and airport

24

trust funds in the Unified Federal Budget prevents Alaska from receiving

25

\$20,000,000 each year in highway funds and \$6,000,000 each year in airport

26

funds to which the state is entitled; and

27

WHEREAS reductions in highway and airport transportation trust fund

28

appropriations hamper Alaska's, as well as the other states', ability to

29

address identified, critical transportation needs; and

1 WHEREAS the money in the highway and airport trust funds cannot be  
2 transferred to other programs included in the Unified Federal Budget; and

3 WHEREAS limitations on highway and airport trust fund expenditures  
4 reduce only the total federal budget but do not result in a real reduction  
5 in the federal deficit;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
7 the Congress to remove the Highway Trust Fund and the Airport and Airway  
8 Trust Fund from the Unified Federal Budget.

9 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald  
10 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush,  
11 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the  
12 Honorable James H. Burnley IV, Secretary of Transportation; the Honorable  
13 Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honor-  
14 able Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the  
15 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation  
16 in Congress.

17