

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY CATO

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to the increase in federal

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motor fuel taxes and the use of fuel

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taxes to reduce the federal budget

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deficit.

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

10 WHEREAS the United States Congress is looking for effective means to

11 reduce the federal budget deficit in the immediate future; and

12 WHEREAS several proposals being considered for deficit reduction would

13 increase the existing federal fuel taxes by various sizable increments; and

14 WHEREAS the United States Department of Energy has stated that a motor

15 fuel tax will create an economic loss that is greater than the possible

16 benefits of the tax; and

17 WHEREAS motor fuel taxes are regressive taxes and their increase would

18 affect the poor to a greater extent than persons of other income levels;

19 and

20 WHEREAS states would not receive direct revenue benefits from in-

21 creased federal fuel taxes, but would incur substantial increases in their

22 public assistance costs; and

23 WHEREAS United States residents in the south, midwest, and west pay

24 more fuel taxes because they must travel greater distances by personal

25 vehicles than residents of other regions and, therefore, would bear a

26 disproportionate burden of deficit reduction; and

27 WHEREAS since a great need exists to rehabilitate and reconstruct the

28 nation's transportation system infrastructure, motor fuel taxes should

29 continue to be dedicated to transportation purposes; and

1 WHEREAS the tourism industry, one of the top three employers in 80
2 percent of the states, would be adversely affected by the proposed fuel tax
3 increases; and

4 WHEREAS the gross national product, the consumer price index, and
5 employment all would be severely and negatively affected by the proposed
6 fuel tax hikes; and

7 WHEREAS raising the motor fuel taxes and using the taxes for deficit
8 reduction purposes would not only undermine the highway trust fund, but
9 would severely and negatively affect the nation's transportation system;

10 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United
11 States Congress to oppose an increase in the federal motor fuel taxes and
12 the use of the taxes to reduce the federal budget deficit.

13 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
14 President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of
15 the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jim
16 Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable
17 Samuel K. Skinner, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation;
18 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.
19 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the
20 Alaska delegation in Congress.