

1 IN THE SENATE

BY FAHRENKAMP

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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 13

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to support for public transpor-

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tation in Alaska, for the Rural Trans-

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portation Equity Act of 1989, and oppo-

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sition to reduction of the Urban Mass

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Transit Administration's 1990 budget

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proposal.

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

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WHEREAS in addition to the transit system found in Alaska's largest

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city, Anchorage, most of the medium size cities and many rural communities

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have bus and van lines supported only by state and local resources; and

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WHEREAS there is a substantial imbalance in the funding authorized by

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the Congress for transportation services in urban and rural areas; and

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WHEREAS under present law, communities with populations under 50,000

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receive less than three percent of the transit funding through the U.S.

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Department of Transportation; and

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WHEREAS the Congress should be concerned about public transportation

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generally and not only urban transportation; and

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WHEREAS in 1989 the Congress offered only \$66,200,000 in mass transit

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funds to rural America while making more than \$168,000,000 available to

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Washington, D.C.; and

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WHEREAS legislation has been introduced in the Congress that would

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double the share of Urban Mass Transit Administration (UMTA) Section 18

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grants for the construction and operation of public transit systems in

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communities of fewer than 50,000 people; and

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WHEREAS the legislation would also establish a state-administered

1 block grant program for rural areas and small cities and seek federal
2 subsidies for "essential bus service" on otherwise unprofitable bus routes;
3 and

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

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

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

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate opposes the Administration's proposal
14 to decrease the amounts available for public transportation.

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