

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Introduced: 2/1/91

Referred: Transportation, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the federal highway trust fund and the federally aided highway program.

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

3 WHEREAS the construction and maintenance of an adequate highway system is vital to the
4 economic health of the states and the nation; and

5 WHEREAS the principle of relying on user fees held in a trust fund to finance the federal
6 highway program has been recognized as a sound one by the Congress; and

7 WHEREAS, as a response to the federal deficit, the Congress enacted a five-cent motor fuels
8 tax increase, of which half was earmarked for the federal highway trust fund with one-half cent
9 designated for transit projects, and this increase is scheduled to expire in 1995; and

10 WHEREAS the Congress has for too long been holding back the highway trust fund money from
11 its intended use in order to make it appear that the federal budget deficit is not as large as it actually
12 is; and

13 WHEREAS the money in the highway trust fund is sorely needed by the states for their highway
14 systems; and

15 WHEREAS the federal aid highway program is due to expire in September 1991;

16 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urgently calls upon the Congress to make
17 federal highway trust fund money available immediately to the states for obligation in fiscal year 1991,

1 or, in the alternative, requests that the states be repaid in later years for using state money for projects
2 that should be financed by federal trust fund money; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the five-cent motor fuels tax be continued beyond 1995 and that
4 the entire amount be earmarked for highway purposes; and be it

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the states and municipalities should be allowed the flexibility to
6 use money designated for transit projects for highway projects if local needs justify that result; and be
7 it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Congress should act swiftly to extend the Federal Surface
9 Transportation Assistance Act, revamping it along the lines suggested by the Highway Users Federation;
10 and be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that when the Federal Surface Transportation Assistance Act is
12 extended, it should retain the same matching requirements and allocation formula for distributing money
13 to the states that are used in the current Act.

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