

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1997

400A0822

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1012

Introduced by: Representatives Koskan, Duenwald, Konold, Kooistra, Lee, Matthews, Schrempp, Smidt, Sperry, Volesky, Wetz, and Wick and Senators Staggers, Albers, Flowers, Hutmacher, Lange, Shoener, and Vitter

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging Congress to reauthorize the federal surface
2 transportation program in a timely manner and to continue to recognize the national interest
3 in the investment in highways which serve and cross rural western states.

4 WHEREAS, South Dakota's economy, the quality of life and the personal mobility of its
5 citizens benefit greatly from federal transportation and highway infrastructure investments; and

6 WHEREAS, the nation's highways are a linked, inter-connected system with the nation as
7 a whole benefiting from federal highway infrastructure investments in rural western states, such
8 as South Dakota, where our Interstate and National Highway Systems provide a bridge for the
9 safe and efficient movement of people and goods across this vast region; and

10 WHEREAS, the benefits from federal highway investments to the nation and the states
11 include:

12 C Improved mobility to support our economy and competitive international position;

13 C Access to the nation's natural resource and agricultural production, its manufactured goods,
14 and our national parks and monuments;

15 C Access and mobility for our national and civil defense forces;

1 C Social progress and quality of life for our citizens; and

2 WHEREAS, South Dakota has an aging Interstate System which needs significant funding
3 for pavement maintenance and replacement; and

4 WHEREAS, federal highway investments are supported entirely by the fees assessed every
5 day on the users of the nation's highways; and

6 WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Trust Fund could support substantially increased
7 investments in highway infrastructure without any increase in fees to the users of the highway
8 system; and

9 WHEREAS, to continue the benefits of transportation and highway infrastructure
10 investments, the Federal Surface Transportation Program must be reauthorized by the United
11 States Congress before the program expires on September 30, 1997:

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
13 second Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the United
14 States Congress is urged to act promptly to reauthorize the Federal Surface Transportation
15 Program; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this reauthorization include:

17 C Full investment of all Highway Trust Fund balances, interest and revenues in much needed
18 transportation and highway infrastructure;

19 C A high level of support for the nation's most important highways; the Interstate and National
20 Highway System routes;

21 C Fair treatment of rural western states in the distribution of federal highway program funds
22 among the states, considering the national interest in rural and intercity, as well as urban
23 transportation, and recognizing that the rural western states have vast highway systems
24 which benefit the entire nation and few people to support them;

25 C Regulatory reduction and program streamlining to improve the timeliness and cost-

1 effectiveness of highway project delivery; and

2 C Respect for the uniqueness of each state's approach to managing its transportation system

3 where one size does not fit all, so the federal government should refrain from mandating

4 solutions and imposing sanctions on the states; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the

6 House of Representatives send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States,

7 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States

8 Senate, and each member of the South Dakota Congressional Delegation.