



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 03-042

BY SENATOR(S) May R., Anderson, Andrews, Arnold, Cairns, Entz, Evans, Hillman, Isgar, Johnson S., Jones, Kester, Lamborn, McElhany, Nichol, Owen, Taylor, and Teck;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Berry, Borodkin, Coleman, Crane, Hoppe, King, Rhodes, Rippy, Spradley, Stafford, and Young.

CONCERNING A REQUEST THAT THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES RETURN RESPONSIBILITY FOR SURFACE TRANSPORTATION POLICY TO THE STATES BY ALLOWING THE STATES TO RETAIN FEDERAL FUEL TAX REVENUES.

WHEREAS, The Federal Highway Administration, which was formed in 1956 to build the interstate highway system, had successfully completed that mission by the mid-1980s; and

WHEREAS, Most of the transportation problems that confront travelers today are local or regional, and state and local governments can respond to them more effectively than distant bureaucracies; and

WHEREAS, A growing share of the federal fuel tax paid by motorists is diverted to purposes other than highways and roads, including urban mass transit, ferry boats, commuter rail, historic renovation, hiking trails, landscaping, covered bridges, scenic byways, and Appalachian redevelopment, which benefit narrow yet influential constituencies; and

WHEREAS, The federal government often threatens to withhold a state's share of federal highway money in order to force the state to comply with a variety of federal mandates, including clean air and safety standards, law enforcement, and union contracts; and

WHEREAS, The federal management of highway funding results in a subsidy to wealthier states and slower growing states at the expense of less affluent states and fast growing states with greater transportation needs; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

That the General Assembly encourages Colorado's congressional delegation to work to enact legislation that would return to the states full responsibility to formulate and implement their own surface transportation priorities and finance those priorities by allowing each state to retain the revenues from the 18.4 cent per gallon federal fuel tax that is collected within its borders.

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be sent to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation.

John Andrews
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Lola Spradley
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mona Heustis
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Judith Rodrigue
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES