

By: Senator(s) Little

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 559

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
2 ENACT A MULTIYEAR REAUTHORIZATION FOR THE INTERMODAL SURFACE
3 TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY ACT (ISTEA).

4 WHEREAS, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act
5 of 1991, commonly referred to as ISTEA, began a transition in the
6 United States from an era of highway construction to one of
7 intermodal transportation management. During the ISTEA era, the
8 ITS program was largely devoted to researching and developing ITS
9 applications and building a foundation on which ITS deployment to
10 commercial vehicle operations could take place; and

11 WHEREAS, the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st
12 Century (TEA-21), authorizing federal funding for transportation
13 programs, expired on September 30, 2003. Multiple extensions of
14 the current act have been issued in anticipation of completing a
15 multiyear reauthorization bill. The current extension (H.R. 5183)
16 signed by the President on September 30, 2004, is due to expire on
17 May 31, 2005; and

18 WHEREAS, ongoing extensions and the absence of adequate
19 funding impede quality planning and implementation of critical
20 transportation programs such as Vision-21; and

21 WHEREAS, TEA-21 embraces ISTEA's intermodal vision and
22 recognizes the opportunity and important role that technology
23 offers in creating that vision. Today ITS enables us to operate
24 and manage the transportation network as a single comprehensive
25 system, one that supports the movement of people and goods across
26 all modes of transportation, while still respecting jurisdictional
27 and modal operating boundaries; and

28 WHEREAS, with the foundation of ITS now firmly in place,
29 America is poised for widespread deployment of advanced
30 transportation solutions. TEA-21 provides the resources and
31 policy levers necessary to support the next step in the evolution
32 of the national ITS program; a program that fosters integrated ITS
33 deployment in a way that furthers the vision of a seamless
34 transportation network; and

35 WHEREAS, it is extremely urgent that Congress and the
36 Administration take corrective action and promptly pass a
37 multiyear fully funded reauthorization bill:

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
39 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
40 we do hereby urge the United States Congress to enact a multiyear
41 reauthorization for the Intermodal Surface Transportation
42 Efficiency Act (ISTEA) to assist the State of Mississippi in the
43 implementation of critical transportation programs such as
44 Vision-21.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to
46 the Director of the Federal Highway Administration and members of
47 Mississippi's congressional delegation, and be made available to
48 the Capitol Press Corps.