

By: Senator(s) Little, Albritton, Brown,  
Browning, Burton, Butler, Carmichael, Clarke,  
Davis, Dawkins, Dearing, Gordon, Harden,  
Harvey, Hewes, Hyde-Smith, Jackson (11th),  
Jackson (15th), Jackson (32nd), Jordan,  
Kirby, Lee (35th), Mettetal, Moffatt, Morgan,  
Pickering, Thames, Thomas, White, Wilemon

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.