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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 571

House Amendments in [] — February 4, 1997

Memorializing the President and the Congress of the United States to provide full federal funding to replace the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

Patrons—Brickley, Albo, Almand, Callahan, Connally, Darner, Davies, Dillard, Hull, Keating, Lovelace, Marshall, May, McClure, Mims, Moran, O'Brien, Orrock, Parrish, Plum, Puller, Rollison, Rust, Scott, Van Landingham and Watts; Senators: Barry, Chichester, Colgan, Howell, Waddell and Woods

Referred to Committee on Transportation

WHEREAS, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge is the major crossing of the Potomac River for the southern half of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, the bridge carries 170,000 vehicles per day, yet was designed to carry only 75,000 vehicles per day; and

WHEREAS, traffic is estimated to increase to 300,000 vehicles per day by the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, the bridge is the only segment of the region's eight-lane capital beltway limited to six lanes; and

WHEREAS, the bridge is the only segment of the interstate system owned by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, delays by the owner in replacing the bridge facility have increased traffic congestion and the risk of vehicle accidents; and

WHEREAS, the bridge was not funded under the Interstate Construction Program because of federal ownership or included in the Final Interstate Cost Estimates where funding was provided in addition to the normal federal-aid apportionment and where the federal share was 90% of the cost of the project; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway System Designation Act recently reaffirmed the responsibility of the federal government to fund the reconstruction of the bridge; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway System Designation Act provides for the establishment of an interstate authority; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia [, the District of Columbia,] and the State of Maryland have enacted legislation creating the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and Tunnel Authority; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the President and Congress of the United States be urged to provide full federal funding to replace the Woodrow Wilson Bridge [, its interchanges] and its approaches; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That federal government funding and design comply with current design and engineering standards currently imposed on states for constructing bridges, and that such design enhance the capacity of the bridge and match the approaches with the new bridge configuration; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the Congressional Delegation of Virginia to apprise them of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

ENGROSSED

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