

cents-per-gallon gas tax that is currently used for our deficit reduction.

Senators will recall that back in May and June of last year, there was much debate on this 4.3-cent gas tax, which was first imposed by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993.

During this past summer, I deferred offering this bill as an amendment to two separate tax bills, and I did so at the request of both the majority and the minority leaders. But unfortunately, another opportunity to offer the amendment to a tax bill did not arise.

By depositing this additional 4.3-cents per gallon gas tax into the highway trust fund, Congress will have the resources to better meet the true needs of our Nation's transportation infrastructure.

Our Federal investment in infrastructure as a percentage of the total Federal budget has declined significantly since 1980. Few economists would disagree that adequate long-term investment in infrastructure is critical to a nation's economic well-being. Only through investment here at home, only through investment to maintain and renew our own physical plant, can our economy grow and generate good wages for our citizens.

Even so, our Nation's investment in infrastructure as a percentage of our gross domestic product has almost been cut in half since 1980. As a nation, we invest a considerably smaller percentage of our gross domestic product in infrastructure than our economic competitors invest in economic infrastructure in Europe and in Asia.

Nowhere do we pay a greater price for inadequate infrastructure investment than in our Nation's highways. Our National Highway System carries nearly 80 percent of U.S. interstate commerce and nearly 80 percent of intercity passenger and tourist traffic. Yet, we have allowed segments of our National Highway System to fall into disrepair.

The Department of Transportation recently released its latest report on the condition of the Nation's highways. Its findings are even more disturbing than earlier reports. The Department of Transportation currently classified less than half of the mileage on our interstate system as being in good condition and only 39 percent of our entire National Highway System is rated in good condition. Fully 61 percent of our Nation's highways are rated in either fair condition or in poor condition. Almost one in four of our Nation's highway bridges are now categorized as either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

According to the Department of Transportation, investment in our Nation's highways is a full \$15 billion short each year just to maintain these current inadequate conditions—just to maintain them. Put another way, we would have to increase our national highway investment by more than \$15 billion a year just to avoid further de-

terioration of our national highway network.

It should be noted that, while our highway infrastructure continue to deteriorate, highway use is on the rise. Indeed, it is growing at a very rapid pace. The number of vehicle miles traveled has grown by roughly 40 percent in just the last decade. As a result, we are witnessing new highs in the levels of highway congestion, causing delays in the movement of goods and people that costs our national economy more than \$40 billion a year.

So, Mr. President, it is clear that the requirement that we place on our National Highway System are growing while our investment continues to decline. We are simply digging ourselves a deeper and deeper hole. Six years ago, in 1991, it was estimated that an investment of \$47.5 billion would be necessary on an annual basis to ensure that highway conditions would not deteriorate any further than existed in that year—that it would not get any worse. By 1993, that figure grew to \$51.6 billion. And 2 years ago, that figure grew to \$54.8 billion. Ergo, the longer we delay increasing Federal highway spending, the more expensive it will be to reverse this destructive trend, which costs our Nation dearly.

Productivity improvements are the key to global competitiveness, rising standards of living and economic growth. Investments in highways result in significant, nationwide improvements in productivity. According to the Federal Highway Administration, every \$1 billion invested in highways creates and sustains over 40,000 full-time jobs. Furthermore, the very same \$1 billion also results in a \$240 million reduction in overall production costs for American manufacturers.

While we can easily see the economic impact of disinvestment in our Nation's highways, we must not lose sight of the fact that deteriorating highways have a direct relationship to safety as well. We may be talking about your life. We may be talking about your life. And we are. Almost 42,000 people died on our Nation's highways in 1996. That equates to having a mid-sized passenger aircraft crash every day, killing all of its occupants. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration counts poor road conditions as a contributing factor in a large percentage of these fatal accidents, as well as those in which there are serious injuries. The economic impact of these highway accidents cost our Nation \$150 billion a year, and that figure is growing. More importantly, this wasteful carnage brings incredible sorrow to affected families and friends, and the Nation loses the skills, the talents, and the contributions of the victims.

The Senate will soon take up legislation to reauthorize the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, or ISTEA. This bill will be one of the most important pieces of legislation that we consider this session. Many Members, including myself, have intro-

duced legislation to address specific transportation needs in their States and regions. Also, many Members have spoken of the need for formula changes to bring about what they perceive to be a more equitable distribution of funds from the highway program.

However, we must face the fact that, absent a substantial increase in the current level of spending on our highway program, we will not have the resources available to address the many important, but often competing, needs for our Nation's highway requirements in all regions of the country.

So in the coming weeks, Mr. President, I look forward to working with all of my colleagues toward the enactment of substantially increased authorizations and appropriations for our Nation's highway system. And the bill that I have introduced today will provide a very helpful tool with which to do that.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 28

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG] was added as a cosponsor of S. 28, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, with respect to certain exemptions from copyright, and for other purposes.

S. 194

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 194, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the section 170(e)(5) rules pertaining to gifts of publicly-traded stock to certain private foundations and for other purposes.

S. 224

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 224, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit covered beneficiaries under the military health care system who are also entitled to Medicare to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program, and for other purposes.

S. 278

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the name of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 278, a bill to guarantee the right of all active duty military personnel, merchant mariners, and their dependents to vote in Federal, State, and local elections.

S. 370

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] and the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE] were added as cosponsors of S. 370, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for increased Medicare reimbursement for nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists to increase the delivery of health services in health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes.

S. 371

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] was added as a cosponsor of S. 371, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for increased Medicare reimbursement for physician assistants, to increase the delivery of health services in health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to restore the link between the maximum amount of earnings by blind individuals permitted without demonstrating ability to engage in substantial gainful activity and the exempt amount permitted in determining excess earnings under the earnings test.

S. 419

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 419, a bill to provide surveillance, research, and services aimed at prevention of birth defects, and for other purposes.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND] and the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] were added as cosponsors of S. 479, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide estate tax relief, and for other purposes.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 489, a bill to improve the criminal law relating to fraud against consumers.

S. 493

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 493, a bill to amend section 1029 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to cellular telephone cloning paraphernalia.

S. 497

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the name of the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act and the Railway Labor Act to repeal the provisions of the Acts that require employees to pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment.

S. 529

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL], and the Senator from Kansas [Mr. BROWNBACK] were added as cosponsors of S. 529, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain farm rental income from net earnings from self-em-

ployment if the taxpayer enters into a lease agreement relating to such income.

S. 532

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 532, a bill to authorize funds to further the strong Federal interest in the improvement of highways and transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 535

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Delaware [Mr. BIDEN] and the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN] were added as cosponsors of S. 535, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of a program for research and training with respect to Parkinson's disease.

S. 536

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] and the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SESSIONS] were added as cosponsors of S. 536, a bill to amend the National Narcotics Leadership Act of 1988 to establish a program to support and encourage local communities that first demonstrate a comprehensive, long-term commitment to reduce substance abuse among youth, and for other purposes.

S. 543

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the names of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] and the Senator from Arizona [Mr. KYL] were added as cosponsors of S. 543, a bill to provide certain protections to volunteers, non-profit organizations, and governmental entities in lawsuits based on the activities of volunteers.

S. 544

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the names of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] and the Senator from Arizona [Mr. KYL] were added as cosponsors of S. 544, a bill to provide certain protections to volunteers, non-profit organizations, and governmental entities in lawsuits based on the activities of volunteers.

S. 562

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the names of the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK], the Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND], the Senator from Delaware [Mr. ROTH], the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. CHAFEE], and the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND] were added as cosponsors of S. 562, a bill to amend section 255 of the National Housing Act to prevent the funding of unnecessary or excessive costs for obtaining a home equity conversion mortgage.

S. 570

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the names of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT] and the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG] were added as cosponsors of S. 570, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain small businesses from the

mandatory electronic fund transfer system.

S. 575

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana [Ms. LANDRIEU] was added as a cosponsor of S. 575, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deduction for health insurance costs of self-employed individuals.

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 575, supra.

S. 583

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 583, a bill to change the date on which individual Federal income tax returns must be filed to the Nation's Tax Freedom Day, the day on which the country's citizens no longer work to pay taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 606

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the names of the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE] and the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] were added as cosponsors of S. 606, a bill to prohibit discrimination in contracting on federally funded projects on the basis of certain labor policies of potential contractors.

S. 620

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 620, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide greater equity in savings opportunities for families with children, and for other purposes.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Louisiana [Ms. LANDRIEU] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 6, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims.

SENATE RESOLUTION 51

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. AKAKA], the Senator from Montana [Mr. BAUCUS], the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY], the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI], the Senator from Oregon [Mr. SMITH], and the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. TORRICELLI] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 51, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the outstanding achievements of NetDay.

SENATE RESOLUTION 64

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the names of the Senator from Delaware [Mr. BIDEN], the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. BUMPERS], the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG], the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE], the Senator from Ohio [Mr. GLENN], the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR], the Senator

from New York [Mr. MOYNIHAN], the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND], and the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 64, a resolution to designate the week of May 4, 1997, as "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week."

SENATE RESOLUTION 76—PROCLAIMING A NATIONWIDE MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE

Mr. THURMOND submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 76

Whereas the preservation of basic freedoms and world peace has always been a valued objective of this great country;

Whereas thousands of American men and women have selflessly given their lives in service as peacemakers and peacekeepers;

Whereas greater strides should be made to demonstrate the appreciation and gratitude these loyal Americans deserve and to commemorate the ultimate sacrifice they made;

Whereas Memorial Day is the day of the year for the Nation to appropriately remember American heroes by inviting the citizens of this Nation to respectfully honor them at a designated time; and

Whereas the playing of "Taps" symbolizes the solemn and patriotic recognition of those Americans who died in service to our Country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate requests that—

(1) a nationwide moment of remembrance be observed on Memorial Day, May 26, 1997, by the simultaneous pausing of all citizens to acknowledge the playing of "Taps" at 3:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) in honor of the Americans that gave their lives in the pursuit of freedom and peace; and

(2) the President issue a proclamation calling upon the departments and agencies of the United States and interested organizations, groups, and individuals to participate in and promote this nationwide tribute to the dedicated American men and women who died in the pursuit of freedom and peace.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution proclaiming a nationwide moment of remembrance, to be observed on Memorial Day, May 26, 1997, in order to appropriately honor American patriots lost in the pursuit of peace and liberty around the world.

This year, the nonprofit organization, No Greater Love, which assists the families of Americans who died in service to their country or in terrorist acts, is launching the first annual "Proud to Remember" campaign. The goal of this campaign is to make certain that those who have died in service to our country will be appropriately honored in a patriotic and personal way on this special day of remembrance. In other words, they seek to put "memorial" back into Memorial Day.

Pursuant to this resolution, on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 1997, the entire Nation will be asked to observe a moment of remembrance at 3:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, in honor of those who have sacrificed their lives for us. "Taps" will be played at this time across the country to honor our fallen heroes.

It is our hope that this moment of remembrance will bring all Americans together in a spirit of respect, patriotism, and gratitude, and also help restore the recognition our veterans deserve for the sacrifices they have made on behalf of our great Nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 77—TO AUTHORIZE REPRESENTATION BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 77

Whereas, in the case of *William L. Singer v. Office of Senate Fair Employment Practices*, No. 97-6000, pending in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, petitioner William L. Singer has sought review of a final decision of the Select Committee on Ethics which has been entered, pursuant to section 308 of the Government Employee Rights Act of 1991, 2 U.S.C. §1208 (1994), in the records of the Office of Senate Fair Employment Practices;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(1)(1994), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend committees of the Senate in civil actions relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, pursuant to section 303(f) of the Government Employee Rights Act of 1991, 2 U.S.C. §1203(f)(1994), for purposes of representatives by the Senate Legal Counsel, the Office of Senate Fair Employment Practices, the respondent in this proceeding, is deemed a committee within the meaning of sections 703(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a), 288c(a)(1)(1994): Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is directed to represent the Office of Senate Fair Employment Practices in the case of *William L. Singer v. Office of Senate Fair Employment Practices*.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 1997, 9:30 a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources will be held on Thursday, April 24, 1997, 10 a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is overview of vocational education.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 22, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Building to conduct a hearing on S. 459, a bill to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to extend certain program authorizations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, BUSINESS RIGHTS, AND COMPETITION

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition, of the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 22, 1997, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing on "Antitrust Implications: The British Airways—American Airlines Alliance."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOW

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 1997, in open session, to receive testimony regarding the Department of the Navy's shipbuilding development and procurement programs in review of S. 450, the national defense authorization bill for fiscal years 1998 and 1999.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COUNCIL OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, each year an elite group of young women rise above the ranks of their peers and confront the challenge of attaining the Girl Scouts of the United States of America's highest rank in scouting, the Girl Scout Gold Award.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize and applaud young women from the State of Maryland who are this year's recipients of this most prestigious and time honored award.

These outstanding young women are to be commended on their extraordinary commitment and dedication to their families, their friends, their communities, and to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

The qualities of character, perseverance, and leadership which enabled them to reach this goal will also help them to meet the challenges of the future. They are our inspiration for today and our promise for tomorrow.

I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of this award from the State of Maryland. They are the best and the brightest and serve as an example of character and moral strength for us all to imitate and follow.