

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 111

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 15, 2015

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL

District 10 (Ocean)

Senator NICHOLAS J. SACCO

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Beck, Gordon and Greenstein

SYNOPSIS

Urges United States Congress to dedicate additional federal funds for highway maintenance and infrastructure improvements in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/19/2015)

SR111 HOLZAPFEL, SACCO

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- 1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** respectfully urging the United States
2 Congress to dedicate additional federal funds for highway
3 maintenance and infrastructure improvements in New Jersey.
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- 5 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Department of Transportation estimates
6 that motorists travel more than 200 million miles per day on the
7 approximately 39,000 miles of public roadways in the State; and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, According to TRIP, a national non-profit transportation
9 research group, 66 percent of New Jersey's roads are in poor or
10 mediocre condition, and 36 percent of New Jersey's bridges are
11 structurally deficient or functionally obsolete; and
- 12 **WHEREAS**, Roads and bridges in poor condition cost motorists in the
13 State an estimated \$3.6 billion per year in vehicle repairs and
14 operating costs and \$121 billion a year in fuel costs and time lost in
15 traffic; and
- 16 **WHEREAS**, TRIP estimates that roadway conditions are a significant
17 factor in one-third of the approximately 600 annual traffic-related
18 deaths in the State; and
- 19 **WHEREAS**, In the latest Annual Highway Report issued by the Reason
20 Foundation, New Jersey's highway system ranked 46th in the
21 nation in overall highway performance, 34th in deficient bridges,
22 45th in urban interstate highway congestion, and 48th in urban
23 interstate pavement in poor condition; and
- 24 **WHEREAS**, In recent years, the State spent eight times the national per
25 mile average on the maintenance of roads and bridges in New
26 Jersey, and although New Jersey already invests more per mile of
27 highway than any other state, its roads and bridges continue to rank
28 among the worst in the country making additional federal
29 investment in the State's roads and bridges crucial to the safety and
30 convenience of those who use them; and
- 31 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is a key corridor state located between two
32 major metropolitan areas, and the benefits derived from a well-
33 maintained transportation infrastructure not only support commerce
34 and economic activity between those metropolitan areas but also
35 provide significant benefits to the region and the nation as a whole
36 making it imperative that adequate funding be provided by the
37 federal government to support the State's transportation
38 infrastructure; and
- 39 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's location in relation to the Port of New York
40 and New Jersey, which handles over 3.3 million containers per year
41 and provides much needed goods and inventory to businesses
42 throughout the region and the nation, demonstrates a critical need
43 for adequate transportation infrastructure; and
- 44 **WHEREAS**, In addition to benefiting New Jerseyans, additional federal
45 investment in the State's roads and bridges will make it safer and
46 more reliable to transport goods through the State, extending the
47 impact of such investment to the entire country; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, It has been documented that for every dollar New Jersey
2 sends in taxes to the federal government, the State receives only 61
3 cents in return; and

4 **WHEREAS**, This disparity needs to be diminished and adequate
5 funding provided to New Jersey to support the maintenance of the
6 State's highways and improvements to the State's transportation
7 infrastructure; and

8 **WHEREAS**, In a struggling economy, investing in improvements to the
9 transportation infrastructure creates much needed jobs in the
10 construction and engineering industries and in every industry that
11 relies on both intrastate and interstate commerce; and

12 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper and in the best interests of
13 the citizens of this State and the nation for this House to
14 respectfully urge the United States Congress to invest additional
15 dollars in maintaining highways and improving the transportation
16 infrastructure in this State; now, therefore,

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18 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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20 1. This House respectfully urges the United States Congress to
21 invest additional federal dollars in maintaining the highways and
22 improving the transportation infrastructure in this State.

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24 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
25 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Majority
26 and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and
27 the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives,
28 and every member of Congress elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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33 This resolution respectfully urges the United States Congress to
34 invest additional federal dollars in maintaining the highways and
35 improving the transportation infrastructure in this State. New
36 Jersey serves as a critical intermodal and transit conduit for the
37 eastern seaboard and therefore has a major influence and impact
38 upon the national economy.

39 According to a report compiled by TRIP, a national non-profit
40 transportation research group, 66 percent of New Jersey's roads are
41 in poor or mediocre condition, and 36 percent of New Jersey's
42 bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. Roads
43 and bridges in poor condition cost motorists in the State billions of
44 dollars annually and contribute to a third of all traffic-related deaths
45 in the State.

46 New Jersey's highway system is ranked 46th in the nation in
47 overall highway performance and efficiency in the latest Annual
48 Highway Report issued by the Reason Foundation. Given that New

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1 Jersey already invests more per mile of highway than any other
2 state and the roads and bridges still rank among the worst in the
3 country, additional federal investment in the State's roads and
4 bridges is crucial to the safety and convenience of all Americans
5 who travel in New Jersey.

6 It has been documented that for every dollar New Jersey sends in
7 taxes to the federal government, the State receives only 61 cents in
8 return. This disparity needs to be diminished and adequate funding
9 provided to New Jersey to support the maintenance of the State's
10 highways and improvements to the State's transportation
11 infrastructure.

12 New Jersey is a key corridor state located between two major
13 metropolitan areas, and the benefits derived from a well-maintained
14 transportation infrastructure not only support commerce and
15 economic activity between those metropolitan areas but also
16 provide significant benefits to the region and the nation as a whole,
17 making it imperative that adequate funding be provided by the
18 federal government to support the State's transportation
19 infrastructure.