

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 140

BY REPRESENTATIVE ST. GERMAIN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request members of the United States Congress to oppose any legislation allowing an increase in truck weight and size.

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2011, House Resolution 763, the Safe Efficient Transportation Act of 2011(hereinafter referred to as SETA) was introduced in the United States House of Representatives in order to give any state the option to allow a vehicle weighing up to 97,000 pounds access to interstate highways, provided owners equip trucks with a sixth axle, the weight of any single axle does not exceed 20,000 pounds, the weight of any tandem axle does not exceed 34,000 pounds, the weight of any group of three or more axles does not exceed 51,000 pounds, and users agree to pay a supplemental user fee; and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2011, the United States House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure referred SETA to its Subcommittee on Highways and Transit; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2011, Senate Bill 747, identical to House Resolution 763, was introduced and referred to the United States Senate Committee on Finance; and

WHEREAS, should either of these pieces of legislation be signed into law, our aging highway system will be strained in an unprecedented manner, further financially burdening states and endangering the motoring public; and

WHEREAS, the May 2000 Addendum to the 1997 Federal Highway Cost Allocation Study, Final Report, United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, reports that 80,000 pound single-trailer trucks only pay eighty percent of the cost of the damage they cause; and

WHEREAS, the same study shows that increasing truck weights up to 97,000 pounds would result in trucks only paying for about fifty percent of the damage they would do; and

WHEREAS, the same study reports that the federal government already subsidizes heavy truck operations by almost two billion dollars every year; and

WHEREAS, allowing heavier and longer trucks to operate on interstate highways would add new costs and increase the burden on taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, increasing the permissible truck size and weight on interstate highways would require that many bridges in the state be replaced, strengthened, or posted, all of which would impose additional costs and unfunded mandates on Louisiana's already underfunded transportation infrastructure program and ultimately each citizen of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request members of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the members of the United States Senate Committee on Finance, and all other members of the United States Congress to oppose any legislation allowing an increase in truck weight and size.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE