

FLORIDIANS FOR BETTER



TRANSPORTATION

Federal Update – June 24, 2004

Another Extension

Yesterday, Congress agreed to a one-month extension for the federal highway and transit programs. This short-term extension is the fourth such extension and will allow for continued funding through July 31st while the House and Senate continue to try to iron-out the differences between their respective TEA-21 reauthorization bills.

Donor State Resolve

Florida Congressman John Mica, a member of the House-Senate Transportation Conference Committee, was recently quoted in two Washington, D.C. publications as saying that he and his donor-state colleagues would torpedo any conference report that did not meet the 95% threshold. "We will not allow this conference to go forward, and we will do everything to defeat a proposal that is not fair and equitable to the donor states," said Congressman Mica. FBT applauds the Congressman's efforts!

Donee State Comment

Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter also made a recent comment that is ludicrous. He said that the donor state push for 95% was "just excessive." Now think about that:

- Under TEA-21, Pennsylvania gets back **\$1.17** for every federal gas tax dollar they send to Washington, D.C.,
- Florida only gets back **86** cents,
- A significant part of the \$1.17 that Pennsylvania gets is **Florida's MONEY**, and
- ***Senator Specter thinks our efforts to keep a little bit more of our OWN MONEY are "excessive?"***

Even if we DO get a 95% guarantee enacted, Florida will STILL be a Donor State sending some of our federal gas tax dollars to Pennsylvania. Florida will remain a Donor State ... we just want to be blood donors -- not organ donors -- for a change.

Florida's Bottom Line

Congress should enact legislation ensuring that every state receives back no less than 95% of their federal gas tax dollars sent to Washington, D.C. Period.

FBT – Your "Voice" for Transportation!

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