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18

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
JULY 19, 2007**

SUBJECT: FEDERAL LEGISLATION

ACTION: APPROVE STAFF RECOMMENDATION ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION

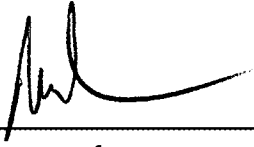
RECOMMENDATION

Adopt position on H.R. 2783 (Tauscher) – A bill that provides federal reimbursement for mass transportation services provided as a result of a highway emergency. **SUPPORT**

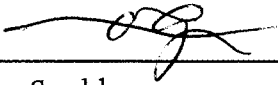
ATTACHMENT

Legislative Analysis

Prepared by: Marisa Yeager
Government Relations Administrator



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Chief Communications Officer



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BILL: H.R. 2783

AUTHOR: CONGRESSWOMAN ELLEN TAUSCHER (D-CA)

SUBJECT: AMENDS US HIGHWAY CODE, TITLE 23, TO ALLOW REIMBURSEMENT FOR MASS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AFTER AN EMERGENCY

STATUS: PENDING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ACTION: SUPPORT

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Support position for H.R. 2783 (Tauscher).

ISSUE

Currently, the State of California is eligible, through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief (ER) program, to be reimbursed to repair damages on federal-aid highways caused by natural disasters or catastrophic events. However, costs associated with transportation agencies offering free transit services in the immediate aftermath of a highway collapse are not eligible for federal reimbursement.

PROVISIONS

This bill seeks to amend current law to allow for the reimbursement of costs associated with offering mass transportation services and the operation of traveler information services like 511.

Specifically, H.R. 2783, if adopted into law, would;

- A) Amend title 23 of the United States Code to provide reimbursement for mass transportation services that provide a temporary substitute to highway traffic service as a result of an emergency.

IMPACT ANALYSIS

With a history of natural and man-made disasters in Los Angeles County, Metro would directly benefit by amending federal law so that transportation agencies may be reimbursed when providing additional or temporary transit services during and after a disaster.

For example, during the 1992 civil unrest in Los Angeles, Metro provided transportation for National Guard troops and First Responders and also fueled National Guard vehicles. Metro was not reimbursed for these services. In addition, following the 1994 Northridge earthquake, Metro was never fully reimbursed by the federal government for additional transit services provided to commuters in Los Angeles County. Should H.R. 2783 become law, Metro would be eligible for future federal reimbursement in the event additional transit services are provided in disaster situations, as we did during the 1992 and 1994 emergencies in Los Angeles County.

.....
 (Original Signature of Member)

110TH CONGRESS
 1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for mass transportation services that provide temporary substitute highway traffic service as a result of an emergency.

 IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. TAUSCHER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for mass transportation services that provide temporary substitute highway traffic service as a result of an emergency.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. MASS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND TRAV-**
 4 **ELER INFORMATION SERVICES FOR EMER-**
 5 **GENCIES.**

6 (a) **ELIGIBILITY FOR MASS TRANSPORTATION.**—Sec-
 7 tion 125(d) of title 23, United States Code, is amended
 8 by inserting after “ferryboats” the following: “and addi-

1 tional mass transportation services, including the oper-
2 ation of traveler information services,”

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
4 subsection (a) shall apply to mass transportation services
5 provided as temporary substitute highway traffic services
6 eligible for emergency relief under section 125(d) of title
7 23, United States Code, on or after April 29, 2007.