

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 114-

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OFFERED BY MR. DESANTIS OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle D of title I of division A, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 1431. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INSOLVENCY OF THE**
2 **HIGHWAY TRUST FUND AND RETURNING**
3 **POWER TO STATES.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The Highway Trust Fund is nearing insol-
6 vency.

7 (2) It is critical for Congress to phase down the
8 Federal gas and diesel taxes and empower the States
9 to tax and regulate their highway and infrastructure
10 projects.

11 (3) The Federal role and funding of surface
12 transportation should be refocused solely on Federal
13 activities and empower States with control and re-
14 sponsibility over their transportation funding and
15 spending decisions.

16 (4) The objective of the Federal highway pro-
17 gram has been to facilitate the construction of a

1 modern freeway system that promotes efficient inter-
2 state commerce by connecting all States.

3 (5) The Interstate System connecting all States
4 is near completion.

5 (6) Each State has the responsibility of pro-
6 viding an efficient transportation network for the
7 residents of the State.

8 (7) Each State has means to build and operate
9 a network of transportation systems, including high-
10 ways, that best serves the needs of the State.

11 (8) Each State is best capable of determining
12 the needs of the State and acting on those needs.

13 (9) The Federal role in highway transportation
14 has, over time, usurped the role of the States by tax-
15 ing motor fuels used in the States and then distrib-
16 uting the proceeds to the States based on the per-
17 ceptions of the Federal Government on what is best
18 for the States.

19 (10) The Federal Government has used the
20 Federal motor fuel tax revenues to force all States
21 to take actions that are not necessarily appropriate
22 for individual States.

23 (11) The Federal distribution, review, and en-
24 forcement process wastes billions of dollars on un-
25 productive activities.

1 (12) The Federal mandates that apply uni-
2 formly to all 50 States, regardless of the different
3 circumstances of the States, cause the States to
4 waste billions of hard-earned tax dollars of projects,
5 programs, and activities that the States would not
6 otherwise undertake.

7 (13) Congress has expressed a strong interest
8 in reducing the role of the Federal Government by
9 allowing each State to manage its own affairs.

10 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
11 gress that—

12 (1) the Secretary should provide a new policy
13 blueprint to govern the Federal role in transpor-
14 tation once existing and prior financial obligations
15 are met;

16 (2) this policy should return to the individual
17 States maximum discretionary authority and fiscal
18 responsibility for all elements of the national surface
19 transportation systems that are not within the direct
20 purview of the Federal Government;

21 (3) this policy will preserve the Federal respon-
22 sibility for the Dwight D. Eisenhower National Sys-
23 tem of Interstate and Defense Highways and will
24 preserve responsibility of the Department of Trans-
25 portation for design construction and preservation of

1 transportation facilities on Federal public land, pre-
2 serving responsibility of the Department of Trans-
3 portation for national programs of transportation re-
4 search and development and transportation safety;
5 and

6 (4) this policy will preserve responsibility of the
7 Department of Transportation to eliminate, to the
8 maximum extent practicable, Federal obstacles to
9 the ability of each State to apply innovative solutions
10 to the financing, design, construction, operation, and
11 preservation of Federal and State transportation fa-
12 cilities with respect to transportation activities car-
13 ried out by States, local governments, and the pri-
14 vate sector.

