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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 159 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY LONGIETTI, HARKINS, KIRKLAND, KOTIK, V. BROWN,  
DONATUCCI, READSHAW, KAVULICH, McNEILL, HARHAI, D. COSTA,  
COHEN AND GIBBONS, MARCH 6, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, MARCH 6, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to return orphan  
2 transportation earmarks to the states.

3 WHEREAS, Congress has specifically earmarked highway and mass  
4 transit funds for special projects and transportation-related  
5 exhibits and research since the 1982 highway reauthorization  
6 bill; and

7 WHEREAS, While certain districts benefit from congressionally  
8 directed highway projects and improvements, orphan earmark funds  
9 impede projects in other districts and reduce Federal gas tax  
10 revenue received by the states; and

11 WHEREAS, Earmarked funding often remains unspent after  
12 project completion; and

13 WHEREAS, Earmarked funding may be directed toward nonviable  
14 projects; and

15 WHEREAS, In some cases earmarked funding, once secured,  
16 cannot be directed toward existing projects having other funding  
17 sources; and

1       WHEREAS, Sponsors of orphan earmarks have no authority to  
2 redistribute funds; and

3       WHEREAS, An estimated \$13 billion, nearly 1 in 3 highway  
4 dollars earmarked since 1991, has been set aside, remaining  
5 unspent; and

6       WHEREAS, Federal funding to the states has been reduced by an  
7 estimated \$7.5 billion due to orphan earmarks; and

8       WHEREAS, Transportation infrastructure projects addressing  
9 structurally deficient highways and bridges in the Commonwealth  
10 of Pennsylvania remain unfunded; and

11       WHEREAS, Reduced Federal transportation funding to the  
12 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has amounted to \$392 million;  
13 therefore be it

14       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
15 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the  
16 United States to return orphan transportation earmarks to the  
17 states; and be it further

18       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
19 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to the  
20 members of Congress from Pennsylvania.