

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, March 10, 1997.

Hon. BUD SHUSTER,  
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation,  
Rayburn House Office Building.

Hon. THOMAS PETRI,  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Surface Transportation,  
Rayburn House Office Building.

Hon. JIM OBERSTAR,  
Ranking Democratic Member, House Committee  
on Transportation, Rayburn House Office  
Building.

Hon. NICK RAHALL,  
Ranking Democratic Member, Subcommittee on  
Surface Transportation, Rayburn House Of-  
fice Building.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN AND RANKING MEM-  
BERS: On February 25, 1997, the North Carolina  
Delegation forwarded to your attention  
copies of the State of North Carolina's high-  
way transportation project priorities.

Included in this package, there were two  
funding requests that are of particular con-  
cern to our districts, the Ninth and Twelfth  
Districts of North Carolina. These requests  
regarded funding for construction of the  
Eastern and Western Outer Loops in Char-  
lotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.  
The completion of the Outer Loop is the  
foremost road priority for our region during  
consideration of transportation funding this  
year. The purpose of this letter is to for-  
mally inform you of our strong support for  
this critical transportation need for the City  
of Charlotte.

We thank you in advance for your consid-  
eration of this request. Please do not hesi-  
tate to contact either of us if we can provide  
you with further information regarding the  
Outer Loop project.

Sincerely,

SUE MYRICK,  
Member of Congress.  
MELVIN WATT,  
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, August 20, 1997.

Chairman BUD SHUSTER,  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-  
ture, Rayburn House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: We are writing  
to express our strong support for the I-40  
cross bridge project, which was submitted to  
the Surface Transportation Subcommittee in  
February. This project is important not only  
to the State of Oklahoma, but also to the  
Nation.

The I-40 cross bridge is in a critical state  
of disrepair. There are serious safety con-  
cerns surrounding the continued use of this  
bridge. Due to these concerns Oklahoma in-  
spects this particular bridge every six  
months; other bridges are inspected only  
once every two years.

It is critical to the State and to the Nation  
that this bridge remains open. Recently, the  
Oklahoma Department of Transportation de-  
termined that approximately 102,000 cars  
cross this bridge every day. Furthermore,  
61% of all the trucks that cross this bridge  
are out of state trucks. Clearly, this bridge  
is heavily traveled by more than just Okla-  
homans.

Both the Governor of Oklahoma and the  
Secretary of Transportation have endorsed  
this project and have made it the number  
one transportation priority for the State of  
Oklahoma. Unfortunately, due to the mag-  
nitude of the project, Oklahoma does not  
have the funds to tackle it at this time.

We are committed to working with our  
state officials to ensure that this project re-  
ceive the attention and funding it needs. We  
would greatly appreciate your consideration  
of the merits of this project. The I-40 cross  
bridge is indeed vital to both Oklahoma and  
the overall interstate system. Please let us

know if we can provide you with additional  
information.

Sincerely,

REP. J.C. WATTS, JR.  
REP. ERNEST ISTOOK, JR.  
REP. STEVE LARGENT.  
REP. FRANK LUCAS.  
REP. WES WATKINS.  
REP. TOM COBURN.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield  
back the balance of my time.

#### ¶26.4 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr.  
Lundregan, one of its clerks, an-  
nounced that the Senate had passed a  
concurrent resolution of the following  
title, in which concurrence of the  
House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 87. Concurrent resolution to  
correct the enrollment of S. 419.

#### ¶26.5 PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3310

Mr. MCINNIS, by direction of the  
Committee on Rules, called up the fol-  
lowing resolution (H. Res. 396):

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adop-  
tion of this resolution the Speaker may, pur-  
suant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the  
House resolved into the Committee of the  
Whole House on the state of the Union for  
consideration of the bill (H.R. 3310) to amend  
chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for  
the purpose of facilitating compliance by  
small businesses with certain Federal paper-  
work requirements, and to establish a task  
force to examine the feasibility of stream-  
lining paperwork requirements applicable to  
small businesses. The first reading of the bill  
shall be dispensed with. Points of order  
against consideration of the bill for failure  
to comply with clause 2(l)(6) of rule XI or  
section 303 or 311 of the Congressional Bud-  
get Act of 1974 are waived. General debate  
shall be confined to the bill and shall not ex-  
ceed one hour equally divided and controlled  
by the chairman and ranking minority mem-  
ber of the Committee on Government Reform  
and Oversight. After general debate the bill  
shall be considered for amendment under the  
five-minute rule. It shall be in order to con-  
sider as an original bill for the purpose of  
amendment under the five-minute rule the  
amendment in the nature of a substitute rec-  
ommended by the Committee on Govern-  
ment Reform and Oversight now printed in  
the bill. The committee amendment in the  
nature of a substitute shall be considered as  
read. Points of order against the committee  
amendment in the nature of a substitute for  
failure to comply with section 303 or section  
311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974  
are waived. During consideration of the bill  
for amendment, the chairman of the Com-  
mittee of the Whole may accord priority in  
recognition on the basis of whether the  
Member offering an amendment has caused  
it to be printed in the portion of the Con-  
gressional Record designated for that pur-  
pose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments  
so printed shall be considered as read. The  
chairman of the Committee of the Whole  
may: (1) postpone until a time during further  
consideration in the Committee of the Whole  
a request for a recorded vote on any amend-  
ment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the min-  
imum time for electronic voting on any post-  
poned question that follows another elec-  
tronic vote without intervening business,  
provided that the minimum time for elec-  
tronic voting on the first in any series of  
questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclu-  
sion of consideration of the bill for amend-  
ment the Committee shall rise and report  
the bill to the House with such amendments

as may have been adopted. Any Member may  
demand a separate vote in the House on any  
amendment adopted in the Committee of the  
Whole to the bill or to the committee  
amendment in the nature of a substitute.  
The previous question shall be considered as  
ordered on the bill and amendments thereto  
to final passage without intervening motion  
except one motion to recommit with or with-  
out instructions.

When said resolution was considered.

After debate,

On motion of Mr. MCINNIS, the pre-  
vious question was ordered on the reso-  
lution to its adoption or rejection and  
under the operation thereof, the resolu-  
tion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote  
whereby said resolution was agreed to was,  
by unanimous consent, laid on the  
table.

#### ¶26.6 SMALL BUSINESS PAPERWORK REDUCTION AMENDMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr.  
MCINNIS, pursuant to House Resolu-  
tion 396 and rule XXIII, declared the  
House resolved into the Committee of  
the Whole House on the state of the  
Union for the consideration of the bill  
(H.R. 3310) to amend chapter 35 of title  
44, United States Code, for the purpose  
of facilitating compliance by small  
businesses with certain Federal paper-  
work requirements, and to establish a  
task force to examine the feasibility of  
streamlining paperwork requirements  
applicable to small businesses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr.  
MCINNIS, by unanimous consent, des-  
ignated Mr. CALVERT as Chairman of  
the Committee of the Whole; and after  
some time spent therein.

#### ¶26.7 RECORDED VOTE

A recorded vote by electronic device  
was ordered in the Committee of the  
Whole on the following amendment  
submitted by Mr. KUCINICH:

Page 4, strike line 10 and all that follows  
through page 6, line 25, and insert the fol-  
lowing:

"(B) establish a policy or program for  
eliminating, delaying, and reducing civil  
fines in appropriate circumstances for first-  
time violations by small entities (as defined  
in section 601 of title 5, United States Code)  
of requirements regarding collection of in-  
formation. Such policy or program shall  
take into account—

"(i) the nature and seriousness of the vio-  
lation, including whether the violation was  
technical or inadvertent, involved willful or  
criminal conduct, or has caused or threatens  
to cause harm to—

"(I) the health and safety of the public;

"(II) consumer, investor, worker, or pen-  
sion protections; or

"(III) the environment;

"(ii) whether there has been a demon-  
stration of good faith effort by the small entity  
to comply with applicable laws, and to rem-  
edy the violation within the shortest prac-  
ticable period of time;

"(iii) the previous compliance history of  
the small entity, including whether the enti-  
ty, its owner or owners, or its principal offi-  
cers have been subject to past enforcement  
actions;

"(iv) whether the small entity has ob-  
tained a significant economic benefit from  
the violation; and

"(v) any other factors considered relevant  
by the head of the agency;