

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3469

To improve economic productivity and create thousands of jobs by establishing an infrastructure reinvestment fund which will provide immediate, upfront funding of intermodal surface transportation programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 1996

Mr. BORSKI (for himself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. BREWSTER, and Ms. DELAURO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To improve economic productivity and create thousands of jobs by establishing an infrastructure reinvestment fund which will provide immediate, upfront funding of intermodal surface transportation programs, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Infrastructure Rein-
5 vestment and Economic Revitalization Act of 1996”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) the quality of our Nation’s transportation
4 infrastructure and the efficient movement of people
5 and goods are directly linked to our Nation’s eco-
6 nomic productivity and competitiveness;

7 (2) our Nation’s trading partners, with whom
8 we compete in the global economy, have invested
9 substantial amounts of their resources into capital
10 infrastructure investment and currently enjoy pro-
11 ductivity growth rates that are more than triple the
12 United States growth rate;

13 (3) to compete in the global marketplace of the
14 1990’s, the United States must substantially in-
15 crease its level of infrastructure investment as soon
16 as possible;

17 (4) by allowing infrastructure investment to
18 drop from 2.4 percent of the gross national product
19 in the late 1960’s to less than 0.3 percent in the
20 1980’s, our Nation has neglected the foundation of
21 economic growth; and

22 (5) without a substantial influx of new capital,
23 infrastructure investment will not be able to keep
24 pace with the rapid rate of infrastructure decay that
25 will result in crumbling roads, increasing traffic con-

1 gestion, higher costs, and inadequate transit sys-
2 tems.

3 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as fol-
4 lows:

5 (1) Issuance of bonds to finance massive capital
6 infrastructure reinvestment immediately.

7 (2) Creation of thousands of productive new
8 jobs by initiating new rehabilitation and construction
9 projects.

10 (3) Stimulation of the economy and creation of
11 economic growth by increasing the efficiency of our
12 Nation’s infrastructure and investment in its long-
13 term maintenance.

14 (4) Complementing the purposes of the Inter-
15 modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of
16 1991 by creating a new financing mechanism to pro-
17 vide a more immediate source of funds.

18 **SEC. 3. INFRASTRUCTURE REINVESTMENT FUND.**

19 (a) REVENUES FROM HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.—
20 Subsection (c) of section 9503 of the Internal Revenue
21 Code of 1986 (relating to Highway Trust Fund) is amend-
22 ed by adding at the end thereof the following new para-
23 graph:

24 “(7) INFRASTRUCTURE REINVESTMENT
25 FUND.—The Secretary shall pay from time to time

1 from the Highway Trust Fund into the Infrastruc-
2 ture Reinvestment Fund amounts (as determined by
3 him) equivalent to 4.3 cents per gallon of the taxes
4 imposed by sections 4041(a) and 4081 which are re-
5 ceived after September 30, 1996, and before October
6 1, 2026.”.

7 (b) INFRASTRUCTURE REINVESTMENT FUND.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter A of chapter 98
9 of such Code (relating to trust fund code) is amend-
10 ed by adding at the end thereof the following new
11 section:

12 **“SEC. 9512. INFRASTRUCTURE REINVESTMENT FUND.**

13 “(a) CREATION OF FUND.—There is established in
14 the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be
15 known as the ‘Infrastructure Reinvestment Fund’, consist-
16 ing of such amounts as may be appropriated or credited
17 to such Fund as provided in this section, section
18 9503(c)(7), or section 9602(b).

19 “(b) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—Amounts in the
20 Infrastructure Reinvestment Fund shall be available, as
21 provided in appropriation Acts, only for purposes of carry-
22 ing out section 5 of the Infrastructure Reinvestment and
23 Economic Revitalization Act of 1996.

24 “(c) INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
2 appropriated to the Infrastructure Reinvestment
3 Fund, as repayable advances, the maximum amount
4 (less an appropriate reserve) which the Secretary es-
5 timates may be fully amortized before October 1,
6 2026, based on an amortization schedule comparable
7 to a 30-year bond issued as part of the public debt.

8 “(2) REPAYMENT OF ADVANCES.—Advances
9 made to the Infrastructure Reinvestment Fund shall
10 be repaid, and interest on such advances shall be
11 paid, under such terms and conditions as the Sec-
12 retary shall prescribe.

13 “(3) FINAL REPAYMENT.—No advance shall be
14 made to the Infrastructure Reinvestment Fund after
15 September 30, 2026, and all advances made to such
16 Fund shall be repaid on or before such date.

17 “(4) RATE OF INTEREST.—Interest on ad-
18 vances made pursuant to this subsection shall be de-
19 termined in accordance with section
20 9509(d)(3)(C).”.

21 “(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
22 tions for such subchapter A is amended by adding
23 at the end thereof the following new item:

 “Sec. 9512. Infrastructure Reinvestment Fund.”.

1 **SEC. 4. OFF-BUDGET STATUS OF FUND.**

2 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the re-
3 ceipts and disbursements of the Infrastructure Reinvest-
4 ment Fund shall not be counted as new budget authority,
5 outlays, receipts, or deficit or surplus for purposes of—

6 (1) the budget of the United States Govern-
7 ment as submitted by the President,

8 (2) the congressional budget, or

9 (3) the Balanced Budget and Emergency Defi-
10 cit Control Act of 1985.

11 **SEC. 5. INFRASTRUCTURE REINVESTMENT PROGRAM.**

12 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There
13 shall be available, out of the Infrastructure Reinvestment
14 Fund, for fiscal year 1997 to the Secretary for carrying
15 out surface transportation programs an amount equal to
16 the aggregate amount advanced to such Fund under sec-
17 tion 9512(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 plus
18 interest thereon. Such sums shall remain available until
19 expended.

20 (b) **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS AMONG PROGRAMS.**—
21 From the funds made available by subsection (a), the Sec-
22 retary shall make available to carry out a surface trans-
23 portation program an amount determined by multiply-
24 ing—

25 (1) the amount of funds made available by sub-
26 section (a), and

1 (2) the quotient of the amount of funds made
2 available for such program for fiscal year 1996 di-
3 vided by the aggregate of all funds made available
4 for all such programs for fiscal year 1996.

5 (c) **APPLICABILITY OF APPORTIONMENT FORMULAS**
6 **AND OTHER PROVISIONS.—**

7 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**Except as otherwise pro-
8 vided by this Act, funds made available to a surface
9 transportation program under subsection (b) shall be
10 subject to apportionment, Federal share, planning,
11 design, period of availability, and other requirements
12 in the same manner and to the same extent as if
13 such funds were made available, out of the Highway
14 Trust Fund, for such program.

15 (2) **OBLIGATION LIMITATION.—**Funds made
16 available by subsection (a) shall not be subject to
17 any obligation limitation.

18 (d) **CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—**Approval by the Sec-
19 retary of a grant, project, or contract with funds made
20 available by subsection (a) shall be deemed a contractual
21 obligation of the United States for payment of the Federal
22 share of the cost of the grant, project, or contract.

23 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

1 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Transportation.

3 (2) SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.—
4 The term “surface transportation program” means
5 any program or project for which funds are made
6 available for fiscal year 1997 by or under the Inter-
7 modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of
8 1991 and any Act amended by the Intermodal Sur-
9 face Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, includ-
10 ing title 23, United States Code, chapter 53 of title
11 49, United States Code, and the Surface Transpor-
12 tation Assistance Act of 1982. Such term shall not
13 include—

14 (A) any project described in section 1103,
15 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, or 1108 of the Inter-
16 modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of
17 1991; and

18 (B) the national recreation trails funding
19 program under part B of title I of such Act.

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