

estimated to be about \$84 million.

PRESIDENT: Excuse me, Senator Warner. (Gavel.) Could we have it quiet so we could hear the speaker, please. Thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: But that \$84 million, it could be released over a period of three or four years, would have the impact, and since it's already collected would have the impact of or be comparable to about 8 cents of cigarette tax...or excuse me, motor fuel tax in one given year. Obviously it wouldn't come in that way, but it would assist materially in some of the acceleration of the highway plans that the Legislature addressed a year ago, and the resolution merely encourages Congress to take this action of separating out the Highway Trust Fund from the unified budget and go ahead and allow it to be distributed back for the purpose it was collected, which was to assist in mass transit and the construction of roads. I'd move the resolution be adopted.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes. I wonder if Senator Warner would respond to a question.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Sure.

SENATOR WITHEM: Senator Warner, this has absolutely nothing to do with your resolution, other than the fact that I see both of these deal with highway sorts of issues. I've been meaning to ask, and I keep forgetting to ask, and this is as good a time as any, remembering last year, last summer the Roads Department concluded their study where they were looking at...proposed a series of rural expressways, I think was their terminology. And they had recommended an increase in the...our gas tax to fund those over a 20 year period. Did that proposal make it in as a legislative proposal? Is it likely to come to the floor, and if so in what form are we as a body likely to see that proposal this session?

SENATOR WARNER: There was no requirement for legislation to implement the highway need study as it was reported to the Legislature. Actually the Appropriations Committee and Transportation Committee held a hearing about the 30th or 29th