

March 13, 1979

The House Highways and Transportation Committee convened at 1:30 p.m., in Room 431 of the Capitol Building on March 13, 1979, with Vice-Chairman Kanduch presiding and thirteen members present (absent were Reps. Lien, Meyer and Uhde). Chairman Baeth was before another committee so was unable to be present for the first part of the meeting. Since Vice-Chairman Kanduch was the chief sponsor of the bill, Rep. Magone chaired the meeting. He opened the meeting to a hearing on the following bill:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 2 REPRESENTATIVE JOE KANDUCH, Sr., District 89,
said the bill was requested by Ray Wayrynen.
He said the resolution urges an increased rate of highway construction in the state so as to get our interstate system finished before 1986--which is the date the federal government will cut off some of its federal funding. He said the states surrounding us are completed or in the process of completing their interstate systems.

JOE CROSSWHITE, Operating Engineers and WETA, spoke in support. He said the backbone of their union is made up of highway construction workers--about 75%. He said in building the interstate highway 10% of the money comes from the state and the other 90% from federal highway funds. He said most of the materials used in the building of the highways also comes from the state. He said the only thing shipped in is reinforced steel. He said this makes quite an economic boost to the state besides having an up-to-date highway system. He said if we don't get this built before 1986 we'll be paying 40% instead of 10% as we do for primary roads.

JIM BECK, Highway Department, said the director of the department had asked him to convey his support for the resolution. He said if they get the gas tax money requested they would hopefully be able to finish the interstate. He said it depends on a few things like the gasoline situation--if the price goes sky high and consumption goes down they could be in a financial bind. But he said from what they know now we will be able to complete the interstate and will do everything they can to do so.

JOE ROSMIN, Montana Joint Council of Teamsters, said they supported this resolution for a two-fold reason: many of their employees work on highway construction and their drivers are going over the interstate every day. He said eventually trucks will get bigger and we need the interstate.

REPRESENTATIVE MAGONE, spoke in support, said I-90 runs full length of his county, Mineral County, and 2/3 of the proposed interstate is finished in his county. He said the breaking from the interstate to the old highway is a traffic hazard and they would like to see the interstate finished.

During questions, Mr. Beck said their plans take five years from beginning to finish and while the plans are completely done on all remaining parts, they are close. He said the acquisition is virtually complete. In response to a question Mr. Crosswhite said he had tried to get No. 2 designated interstate to help the highline, but was unable

to. Mr. Beck said the strip near Big Timber would be finished as they had settled with a reluctant land owner. He said they did have one minor problem with an antique barn the historical society is interested in.

REP. KANDUCH closed by saying there was another resolution exactly like this one on the Senate side--except it was Senate instead of House. He said they took this route as a joint resolution would not be accepted at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

HOUSE RESOLUTION 2 Rep. Cooney moved be adopted. A voice vote was taken and carried unanimously with those present. Rep. Meyer had left a written request to vote yes and and Chairman Baeth had come in and also voted yes. Absent were Uhde and Lien.

SENATE BILL 473 The Statement of Intent had been prepared by the researcher, Bob Lane, and copies were given to all the committee members (exhibit 1). Rep. Tropila moved that the intent statement be adopted and this motion carried unanimously with those present.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William R. Baeth
WILLIAM R. BAETH, Chairman

Emelia A. Satre, Sec.