



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

1920 L STREET, N.W. - SUITE 200 - WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 - 202-785-0266 - [HTTP://WWW.ATR.ORG](http://www.ATR.ORG)

Support Amendment That Prevents Stealth Toll Taxes

Representative Mark Kennedy (R-MN) will likely introduce an amendment to H.R. 3550, the Transportation Equity Act of 2004, which addresses and fixes the tolling provisions included in the bill. **Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), the nations leading taxpayer advocacy group, strongly supports Rep. Kennedy's amendment and urges members to vote in favor of the proposed amendment.**

There are examples across the country of new tolling innovations pioneered by state and local authorities. Expansions undertaken on state and local systems in Virginia, Texas, California, and elsewhere, have demonstrated workable solutions to the current traffic congestion problems. **However, current language in the House transportation reauthorization bill allows a new hidden tax on motorists and truckers, in the form of involuntary tolls that can be diverted to an almost unlimited array of purposes.**

For example, tolling language in the House bill would:

- **Make it more expensive for drivers to use existing roads at peak "rush hour" times** (*Sec. 1209 Congestion Pricing Pilot Program*)
- **Allow states to convert existing interstates built with gas taxes into toll roads.** (*Sec. 1603 Interstate System Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Toll Program*)
- **Allow for the construction of unspecified toll roads, with little restriction on how that money can be diverted.** (*Sec. 1604 Interstate System Construction Toll Program*)
- **Engage in class warfare by requiring some users to be charged more than others.** (*Sections 1209, 1603, 1605*)
- **Allow tolling to continue indefinitely.** (*Sections 1209, 1603, 1605*)

Neither the language in the House nor Senate road bills contains the kind of safeguards that will provide motorists and truckers with confidence and value. Therefore, ATR urges members to support Rep. Kennedy's amendment that will address these concerns as part of H.R.3550, the Transportation Equity Act of 2004.

ATR MAY RATE THIS VOTE IN OUR ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL RATINGS