



Grover G. Norquist

President

July 2, 2004

Letter to the Editor  
The Washington Times  
3600 New York Ave., NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Editor:

A commentary article ran in the June 27, 2004 edition of the *Washington Times*. Entitled, "How Will 21<sup>st</sup> Century Roads Be Financed?," Robert Poole got some of his facts wrong about Americans for Tax Reform and highway spending. ATR encourages the use of tolls so long as they do not become perpetual collectors of money for roads that have long been paid for. ATR also supports efforts to devolve control of highway funding to states and to limit the size of the highway bill.

States should be free to use tolls in innovative ways to relieve congestion and expand transportation options. That's why we have actively supported HR 1767, the "FAST Act of 2004," by Cong. Mark Kennedy (R-MN). This bill would allow states to include "FAST lanes" on interstate highways. These lanes would charge their own tolls for admission, would finance new road construction controlled by the states, and would sunset once their road-building mission is completed. We also have supported HR 3113, "The Transportation Equity Act" by Cong. Jeff Flake. This bill would allow individual states to assume collection of the federal gas tax and spend those revenues on transportation priorities of their own choosing. Finally, we have recommended that the President veto any transportation authorization bill that exceeds his spending limit.

Taken together, the FAST Act and the Transportation Equity Act would give states the flexibility they need to improve and modernize transportation. It would also save billions of dollars for taxpayers, and shield road money from loony projects like bike paths and transportation museums.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist

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