

Such a Congressional requirement would reduce the amount a state would have to borrow to finance each crossing and would assure that the facility become toll free when paid for. At the same time, this procedure would afford the Congress an opportunity to maintain some degree of control over the proliferation of toll facilities while considering the findings of the Blatnik Subcommittee as contained in House Report 597.

2. H.R. 11627 considerably broadens the original 1948 Act by permitting construction, and by imposition of tolls, not only on "approaches" to the crossings involved but also on "connecting highways." The language raises the question as to whether or not the Congress might not be giving its approval in advance to the construction of toll roads servicing such facilities under the guise of legislation which purports to be local in nature.

Recommendation

Therefore, we suggest the deletion of the reference to "connecting highways" as contained in Section 1 of the bill.

Unless H.R. 11627 is amended to prohibit the pooling of toll funds, it will encourage other states to seek similar legislation. For example, just two days ago, on September 19, Representative Fred Schwengel (R-Iowa) introduced H.R. 13007 which if passed by the Congress would grant Congressional authority for Iowa to pool tolls on interstate bridges within ten miles of each other. No doubt there will be others.

We respectfully request that this letter be made a part of the hearing record on H.R. 11627.

Sincerely,

GEORGE F. KACHLEIN, Jr.,
Executive Vice-President.