

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, D.C., April 29, 1968.

HON. HARLEY O. STAGGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in reply to your request for the views of the Bureau of the Budget on H.R. 16024, a bill "To extend for one year the Act of September 30, 1965, relating to high-speed ground transportation."

The draft bill originally submitted by the Secretary of Transportation proposed a two-year extension of the High-speed Ground Transportation Act in order to allow continuation of the program and facilitate its planning and administration.

We support the recommendation of the Department of Transportation to extend the Act and authorize appropriations for an additional two years. Enactment of such an extension would be consistent with the Administration's objectives.

Sincerely yours,

WILFRED H. ROMMEL,
Assistant Director for Legislative Reference.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, D.C., June 3, 1968.

HON. HARLEY O. STAGGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in reply to your letter of May 15, 1968, concerning H.R. 16024, a bill "To extend for one year the Act of September 30, 1965, relating to high-speed ground transportation."

The Bureau of the Budget continues to recommend enactment of the draft bill submitted to the Congress by the Department of Transportation which would extend the Act for two years, from June 30, 1969 to June 30, 1971, and authorize appropriations for the fiscal years subsequent to 1968.

In answer to your specific questions, we support the request in the President's 1969 budget of \$16.2 million new obligational authority for this program. At this time we are unable to determine the precise appropriation needs for fiscal 1970 or beyond, but in order to facilitate planning and administration of the program we believe that the Act should be extended as recommended.

Sincerely yours,

WILFRED H. ROMMEL,
Assistant Director for Legislative Reference.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
Washington, D.C., April 29, 1968.

HON. HARLEY O. STAGGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in further reply to your request for the views of this Department concerning H.R. 16024, a bill to extend for one year the Act of September 30, 1965, relating to high-speed ground transportation.

The Act of September 30, 1965 (Public Law 89-220; 49 USC 1631) authorized the Secretary of Commerce to undertake research and development in high-speed ground transportation.

Subsections (a) and (b) of H.R. 16024 would amend the Act to reflect the transfer of responsibility for programs under the Act from the Secretary of Commerce to the Secretary of Transportation pursuant to Public Law 89-670, the "Department of Transportation Act." These amendments are desirable and we recommend their enactment.

H.R. 16024 also amends the Act in a number of other respects, including an extension of the termination date of the Act for one year, from June 30, 1969, to June 30, 1970. We would defer to the views of the Department of Transportation concerning such other amendments.