

ommendations that have come forward which is about on a 75-25 basis. I have not detected from your testimony that you have a position or a recommendation on the formula. Did you leave this out on purpose or was it just an inadvertence?

Mr. HEALY. We don't have a position officially as an organization on the formula at this time. But we are considering it and we will undoubtedly be in close consultation with the American Association of State Highway Officials and the National Association of Counties on one agreed upon formula.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Well I would hope that you would because I believe I recall in my opening statement that the only way to have a balanced system of highways is to have a balanced system of finance, and I am hoping we can arrive at that here. Do you feel this committee should make a recommendation or this would go to the Ways and Means Committee?

Mr. HEALY. Well this committee should make a recommendation on the formula.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Thank you. You gave us the authority.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. We planned on meeting this afternoon but it seems we cannot get unanimous consent. So the chairman of the committee will be happy to stay here until we get a call to the floor.

So, at this time we will hear from the counties. Mr. Hillenbrand.

Mr. HILLENBRAND. Mr. Chairman, my name is Bernard F. Hillenbrand, executive director of the National Association of Counties, and my statement is meant to be thought of in the context of being a companion statement with Mr. Healy, because we wanted to emphasize to the members of this committee that the cities and counties jointly have developed this position with the idea of phasing in from our present highway system into a new highway system. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, in view of the lateness of the hour, I would like to, if I might, file my statement for the record and hit the high points.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. Hillenbrand, you can hit on the high points if you wish, and if there are any questions of Mr. Hillenbrand he is sitting there waiting.

Mr. HILLENBRAND. Well, as the Broadway musical says, with a little bit of luck I can hit those high points in exactly 5 minutes.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. Go ahead.

Mr. HILLENBRAND. The first thing is, of course, we are wholeheartedly in support of continuing the ABC appropriations at least at the level of \$1 billion. In line with Mr. Cramer's questions and the discussions, you will remember that when we first started the Interstate System the ABC appropriation was something at the level of \$925 million and we increased it at approximately \$25 million a year until it reached the level of \$1 billion. We think it is important to recognize that we have in effect a freeze on the ABC funds at a level of \$1 billion, which means in the face of continuing inflation on the magnitude of 3 percent a year that we are actually having a decrease in the amount of money available.

So, Mr. Cramer, we would like for you to consider our recommendations with respect to the stretchout of the Interstate System in the context of it isn't that we love the Interstate System less but that we