

2014 -- S 3036

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE  
PRESIDENT'S GROW AMERICA ACT

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, Paiva Weed, McCaffrey, Goodwin, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: May 28, 2014

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, Transportation contributes immensely to the nation's economy. Investments  
2     made to the national transportation network have helped the United States build the world's  
3     largest economy and the most mobile society; and

4           WHEREAS, The Highway Trust Fund, which supports a significant portion of the  
5     nation's construction and repair of our surface transportation system, will be insolvent before the  
6     fall of 2014, and just a few weeks later, the authorities that establish our surface transportation  
7     programs will expire; and

8           WHEREAS, Without action, many states and communities may be forced to slow or stop  
9     work on critical transportation projects that move people, energy, and freight every day, putting  
10    jobs at risk and slowing investment in our future; and

11          WHEREAS, The Generating Renewal, Opportunity, and Work with Accelerated  
12    Mobility, Efficiency, and Rebuilding of Infrastructure and Communities throughout America Act,  
13    or GROW AMERICA Act, is a \$302 billion, four-year transportation reauthorization proposal  
14    that provides increased and stable funding for our nation's highways, bridges, transit, and rail  
15    systems; and

16          WHEREAS, The Obama Administration's proposal is funded by supplementing current  
17    revenues with \$150 billion in one-time transition revenue from pro-growth business tax reform.  
18    This will prevent Trust Fund insolvency for four years and increase investments to meet national  
19    economic goals; and

1           WHEREAS, The GROW AMERICA Act will provide states like Rhode Island with the  
2 certainty needed to effectively plan and start construction on projects that will support good  
3 paying jobs over the next several years; and

4           WHEREAS, The GROW AMERICA Act will also provide critical investments to fix  
5 Rhode Island's decaying roads and bridges and ensure the safety of our transportation systems.  
6 The proposal will increase the amount of highway funds by an average of about twenty-two  
7 percent above FY 2014 enacted levels, while emphasizing "Fix-it-First" policies and reforms that  
8 prioritize investments for much needed repairs and improvements; and

9           WHEREAS, The GROW AMERICA Act will support opportunities for the middle class.  
10 Today, forty-five percent of Americans lack access to public transportation, limiting their options  
11 for jobs, education, and other necessities. The GROW AMERICA Act will provide improved  
12 access to safer and less expensive transportation options for millions of Americans, in part by  
13 investing \$72 billion in public transportation; and

14           WHEREAS, The GROW AMERICA Act will incentivize cost effective investments and  
15 strengthen the performance incentives to maintain safety and conditions of good repair, and  
16 expand research and technology activities in order to improve the productivity of our  
17 transportation systems, thereby increasing taxpayer return on investment; and

18           WHEREAS, Rhode Island's transportation infrastructure relies on continued federal  
19 support to ensure that residents of the Ocean State have access to well-maintained and safe roads,  
20 highways, bridges, and rail systems, assets which are also essential to attracting tourists to our  
21 beautiful state; now, therefore be it

22           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
23 hereby respectfully urges Congress to support President Obama's GROW AMERICA Act; and be  
24 it further

25           RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby supports the comprehensive approach taken by the  
26 GROW AMERICA Act to reform our business taxes in a manner that helps create jobs and  
27 encourages investments in our nation's infrastructure; and be it further

28           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to send  
29 duly authorized copies of this resolution to the members of Rhode Island's Congressional  
30 delegation.

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