



**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 10-1023**

**BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Vaad, Baumgardner, Bradford, DelGrosso, Frangas, Gardner C., King S., Lambert, Looper, Massey, McFadyen, Merrifield, Primavera, Rice, Sonnenberg, Stephens, Gardner B., Kerr J., Murray, Nikkel, Pace, Vigil; also SENATOR(S) Gibbs, Brophy.**

**CONCERNING A RECOMMENDATION TO LIFT THE FREEZE ON LONGER COMBINATION VEHICLES IN WESTERN STATES.**

WHEREAS, One of the most significant ways to improve freight system performance on the highways of the western United States is through the use of more efficient trucks and truck combinations; and

WHEREAS, Over the past 2 decades, longer combination vehicles (LCVs), which are tractor-trailer combinations with 2 or more trailers that have a gross vehicle weight exceeding 80,000 pounds, have demonstrated considerable benefits to the general public through increased productivity, higher safety ratings, increased fuel savings, emissions reductions, and congestion mitigation; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Highway Administration's "Western Uniformity Scenario Analysis" found that the expanded use of LCVs in 13 western states, including Colorado, would reduce heavy truck vehicle miles traveled by 25% in 2010, reduce fuel consumption and emissions by 12%, save shippers \$2 billion per year, reduce pavement costs by as much as 4% over 20 years, and reduce highway noise by 10%; and

WHEREAS, A Federal Highway Administration freeze on state authority to expand the use of LCVs has been in place since 1991, and since that time there has been substantial population and vehicle registration growth, a significant increase in vehicle miles traveled and vehicle emissions, and traffic congestion growth; and

WHEREAS, Eliminating the freeze on LCVs for the affected western states, including Colorado, would give those states the flexibility to establish and operate pilot programs to evaluate LCV routes, configurations, and operating conditions; and

WHEREAS, Through LCV pilot programs, the western states will be able to establish uniformity in LCV oversight and find ways to benefit from LCV operations in each of the affected states and throughout the western United States; and

WHEREAS, Congress is now deliberating the approval of a national transportation funding reauthorization bill, and this presents an opportunity for Congress to lift the freeze on LCVs in order to take advantage of new transportation strategies to improve highway efficiency and reduce vehicle miles traveled, traffic congestion, fuel consumption, and air pollution emissions; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

That the Colorado General Assembly urges Colorado's congressional delegation to support legislation to eliminate the freeze on longer combination vehicles currently in effect for Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

*Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Colorado Department of Transportation, the Western Governors' Association, the Western States Transportation Alliance, Governor Bill Ritter, Jr., and Colorado's congressional delegation.

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Terrance D. Carroll  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Brandon C. Shaffer  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Marilyn Eddins  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Karen Goldman  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE