



## H.Con.Res. 305 – Recognizing the importance of bicycling in transportation and recreation

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### FLOOR SITUATION

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H.Con.Res. 305 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) on February 28, 2008. The resolution was ordered reported from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure by voice vote on May 15, 2008.

H.Con.Res. 305 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on May 19, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

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H.Con.Res. 305 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes that increased and safe bicycle use for transportation and recreation is in the national interest;
- Supports policies that--
  - Establish national target levels for increased bicycle use, reduce the number of motor vehicle miles traveled (VMT), improve bicycle safety to be achieved within a specific timeframe, and collect data needed to monitor progress;
  - Increase intermodal travel between public transportation and bicycles;
  - Provide incentives for State and local governments to adopt and implement complete street policies designed to accommodate all users, including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and people of all ages and abilities;
  - Encourage bicycle use in communities where significant segments of the population do not drive and where short trips are most common;
  - Expand funding for core Federal transportation programs that support non-motorized infrastructure, education, and encouragement programs by--
    - Safeguarding existing funding sources for nonmotorized transportation from inequitable treatment in the Federal transportation funds rescission process;
    - Supporting funding for core Federal transportation programs that support nonmotorized travel, including transportation enhancements, safe routes to school, and recreational trails; and
    - Ensuring that highway safety improvement program funds are spent in proportion to the percentage of bicyclist and pedestrian fatalities in each State;
  - Facilitate the development of a coordinated system of United States bicycle routes across the country that cross state borders and connect metropolitan regions;



- Create bicycle-friendly Federal land protection legislation, such as national recreation areas, to encourage regulations and management practices for mountain biking as an environmentally friendly nonmotorized use of natural surface trails;
  - Provide flexibility in Federal transportation law that would speed up the delivery of nonmotorized infrastructure without sacrificing necessary environmental protections;
  - Provide Federal tax or funding incentives to--
    - States that adopt motor vehicle laws that protect the rights of bicyclists to share the road;
    - Businesses that expand bicycle-friendly programs for their employees;
    - The health care industry to develop more member discount programs, that target increased physical activity such as bicycling and walking; and
    - Provide bicycle commuters the transportation fringe benefits currently provided to people who commute by car or mass transit; and
  - Build upon the 'Green the Capitol Initiative' as a model, create and provide an environmentally sustainable and healthy working environment for employees that includes the promotion of bicycling as a transportation alternative;
- Encourages the Department of Transportation to provide leadership and coordination by reestablishing the Federal bicycle task force to include representatives from all relevant Federal agencies.

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## BACKGROUND

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According to a 2002 survey on bicycling and pedestrian attitudes and behaviors conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation, 57 million individuals over the age of 16 rode a bicycle at least once during the summer of 2002. The survey found that most people ride bikes for recreation or for exercise.

According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, 773 cyclists were killed and an additional 44,000 were injured in traffic crashes. Head injuries are the most serious injuries sustained among a majority of those killed, which highlights the importance of wearing a helmet while riding. 95 percent of cyclists killed in 2006 were reportedly not wearing a helmet.

May is National Bike Month, the week from May 12-16 is Bike-to-Work Week, and Bike-to-Work Day is May 16.

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## STAFF CONTACT

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