

Senate Joint Resolution No. 19—Committee on Transportation

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress permanently to mitigate the consequences of Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

WHEREAS, The economy of the State of Nevada is dependent upon tourism; and

WHEREAS, Canada and Mexico rank No. 1 and No. 7, respectively, among Nevada's sources of international tourism, sending more than 1.5 million Canadian visitors and more than 104,000 Mexican visitors to this state per year; and

WHEREAS, Visitors from Canada and Mexico comprise a major economic contribution to the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The United States has entered into international trade agreements with its neighbors, Canada and Mexico, to foster, encourage and stimulate the exchange of goods and products for mutual economic gain; and

WHEREAS, The United States does not currently require departing tourists returning to Canada and Mexico to be stopped and identified at border crossings; and

WHEREAS, Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 requires that a new entry-exit control system be implemented to track all foreign visitors entering and leaving the United States but does not provide any law enforcement benefits; and

WHEREAS, The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 would impose new border inspection requirements for the gathering of data at entry and departure points for vehicular traffic from Canada and Mexico where none currently exist; and

WHEREAS, The new border entry-exit system does not provide for any enhancement of provisions for apprehending or removing illegal immigrants, drug traffickers, terrorists or other criminals and would not curtail illegal immigration at the borders; and

WHEREAS, No inspection stations or other facilities for departing foreign travelers have been constructed; and

WHEREAS, This system would be implemented at enormous expense to the taxpayers of the United States with no tangible benefits; and

WHEREAS, Congress has held hearings at various sites along the Canadian border to consider exempting that country from the provisions of the Act, but no such hearings have been held or are scheduled in the Mexican border states; and

WHEREAS, Mexican and Canadian tourists who enter the United States for business and recreational travel are not immigrants; and

WHEREAS, These nonimmigrant Mexican and Canadian business and leisure travelers who will already be required to present travel documents to enter the United States, would be subjected to inspections and queries

upon departure that would cause travel delays and inconveniences to those tourists; and

WHEREAS, Such delays and inconveniences would discourage tourism in the United States by Mexican and Canadian citizens, delay commerce and create an economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, The borders with Canada and Mexico should be kept reasonably free of governmental over-involvement in order to encourage tourism, trade and legitimate economic activity that benefit all three countries; and

WHEREAS, The National Governors' Association at its meeting in Washington in February 1998 determined that the entry-exit control system may have "unintended negative consequences on international trade, tourism and the economy"; and

WHEREAS, The National Governors' Association urged suspension of implementing the entry-exit control system until Congress and the President can ensure that any such system will not disrupt tourism, trade or other legitimate traffic entering the United States; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed legislation in October 1998 delaying imposition of the implementation of the provisions of Section 110 until March 31, 2001, but allowing the exit system to take effect at the airports of international entry in the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That Congress is hereby urged permanently to mitigate the consequences of the provisions of Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Congress is encouraged to keep the borders between the United States and Canada and Mexico reasonably free of governmental over-involvement and to impose no new restrictions until infrastructure is available that can collect data and detect illegal and unwanted immigration without disrupting legitimate tourist travel; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage and approval.

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