

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3311

To direct the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a pilot program to study alternatives to the current system of taxing motor vehicle fuels, including systems based on the number of miles traveled by each vehicle.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, and Science and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a pilot program to study alternatives to the current system of taxing motor vehicle fuels, including systems based on the number of miles traveled by each vehicle.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ROAD USER FEE PILOT PROJECT; TECH-**
4 **NOLOGY RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

5 (a) ROAD USER FEE PILOT PROJECT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treas-
2 ury shall establish a pilot program under this sub-
3 section to study alternatives to the current system of
4 taxing motor vehicle fuels. Such program shall be
5 known as the “Road User Fee Pilot Project”.

6 (2) MILEAGE BASED PROGRAM.—The Road
7 User Fee Pilot Project shall study technology and
8 methods for recording and reporting the number of
9 miles traveled by particular vehicles, including—

10 (A) the manner in which a Federal system
11 would receive payments with respect to the
12 number of miles traveled by such vehicles, and

13 (B) integration of such technology and
14 methods with State and local revenue systems
15 and demand management systems.

16 (3) EVALUATION OF METHODS AND TECH-
17 NOLOGIES.—Technologies and methods tested under
18 the Road User Fee Pilot Project shall be evaluated
19 on the basis of—

20 (A) protection of personal privacy,

21 (B) ease of compliance,

22 (C) public acceptance,

23 (D) geographic and income equity,

1 (E) integration with State and local trans-
2 portation revenue mechanisms (including de-
3 mand management systems),

4 (F) administrative, cost, and enforcement
5 issues, and

6 (G) potential for fraud and evasion.

7 (4) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—The programs
8 carried out under the Road User Fee Pilot Project
9 shall be conducted in each State and shall be con-
10 ducted in areas that are diverse geographically and
11 in vehicle density.

12 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS.—The
13 Secretary shall coordinate with the following agencies to
14 coordinate the creation of three working groups and inte-
15 grate their findings into the final report required under
16 subsection (d):

17 (1) TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP.—In coordi-
18 nation with the Director of the White House Office
19 of Science and Technology Policy, the Secretary
20 shall convene a working group to study appropriate
21 technology platforms and standards to facilitate the
22 most effective revenue systems.

23 (2) TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WORKING
24 GROUP.—In coordination with the Secretary of
25 Transportation, the Secretary shall convene a work-

1 ing group to evaluate the costs of collection and ad-
2 ministration.

3 (3) ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP.—In co-
4 ordination with the Administrator of the Environ-
5 mental Protection Agency, the Secretary shall con-
6 vene a working group to study the potential to man-
7 age demand and to reduce the emission of green-
8 house gases.

9 (c) TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH PROGRAM.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
11 a grant program to aid the development of on-board
12 technologies necessary for a miles based program de-
13 scribed in subsection (a)(2).

14 (2) ENTITIES ELIGIBLE FOR GRANTS.—The fol-
15 lowing entities shall be eligible for grants for grants
16 under paragraph (1):

17 (A) Institutions of higher education, as de-
18 fined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education
19 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

20 (B) Commercial manufacturers with an es-
21 tablished record of passenger vehicle innovation.

22 (C) Technology manufacturers with an es-
23 tablished record of wireless networking and
24 communications.

1 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
3 Treasury shall submit a written report to the Congress,
4 providing initial findings from activities authorized by this
5 section. Not later than 36 months after such date, the Sec-
6 retary of the Treasury shall submit a written report detail-
7 ing final findings and conclusions from the activities au-
8 thorized by this section.

9 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
10 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the
11 Treasury—

12 (1) to carry out this section (other than sub-
13 section (c)), \$150,000,000, to remain available until
14 expended, and

15 (2) to carry out subsection (c), \$4,500,000, to
16 remain available until expended.

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