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IBTTA Applauds Rep. Blumenauer (D-OR) for Bold Leadership in Recognizing Severity of Infrastructure Funding Crisis

Patrick Jones, IBTTA's Executive Director & CEO Reiterates Call for "All Options to be on the Table", Including Lifting of Ban on Interstate Tolling

WASHINGTON, DC – IBTTA salutes Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) for his bold leadership in introducing two new bills to help solve America's infrastructure funding crisis.

Rep. Blumenauer introduced the *Road Usage Fee Pilot Program Act of 2013*, a bill that would allow states to consider charging drivers by the mile — a so-called 'vehicle miles traveled' fee — by expanding a pilot program started in Blumenauer's home state of Oregon. The program would be voluntary and allow states to choose how exactly to test the concept of charging for road use.

Rep. Blumenauer also introduced a second bill, the *Update, Promote, and Develop America's Transportation Essentials Act of 2013* that would, raise the gas tax to 33.4 cents per gallon, over the next few years, nearly double the current rate of 18.4 cents, which has not been raised in nearly 20 years. The bill would also tie the gas tax rate to inflation so that its purchasing power doesn't decline over time.

"IBTTA applauds Representative Blumenauer for stepping forward boldly to recognize the severity of the infrastructure funding crisis and define potential solutions," said [Patrick D. Jones](#), Executive Director and CEO of IBTTA. **"As we head into the 2014 Congressional debate over the next surface transportation reauthorization bill, IBTTA urges lawmakers to keep all funding options on the table, including lifting the federal ban on tolling existing lanes of interstate highways."**

"Rep. Blumenauer is correct that we face an 'infrastructure cliff' if we don't do something about it. We will do our part to urge all parties to seriously consider the severity of the crisis and the urgent need to produce new net revenues. Everyone wants someone else to pay for it. We're all in this together and we have to make some tough choices as a nation," Jones said.

IBTTA recently released a new fact sheet addressing the top five myths circulated by opponents of tolling, including the myth that "tolling is double taxation." The fact sheet, ["Debunking the Myths of Highway Tolling,"](#) outlines the truths about tolling as a successful and proven way to fund our nation's highways.

The fact sheet states some of the "primary benefits" of tolling include "better, safer roads; less congestion; more predictable trip times and reduced need for taxes to pay for roads." Tolls provide money today for projects that can be built in the near future and meet the demand for decades to come.

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About IBTTA

[The International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association \(IBTTA\)](http://www.ibtta.org) is the worldwide association for the owners and operators of toll facilities and the businesses that serve them. Through advocacy, thought leadership and education, IBTTA members are implementing state-of-the-art solutions to address the critical infrastructure funding challenges of the 21st century. For more information, visit www.ibtta.org or join us on Twitter [@IBTTA](https://twitter.com/IBTTA) or #TollRoads.