

Resolution

ENROLLED HOUSE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1035

By: Coody, Dorman, Jackson,
Cooksey and Banz of the
House

and

Bass of the Senate

A Concurrent Resolution stating legislative opposition to elimination of certain federal Impact Aid funding; encouraging the United States President and Congress to fully fund federal Impact Aid; encouraging reauthorization of the federal Impact Aid Program; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the budget submitted by the President of the United States for the 2013 fiscal year eliminates funding for federal property payments under Section 8002 of Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and

WHEREAS, Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, referred to as Impact Aid, is the oldest elementary-secondary federal educational program administered by the United States Department of Education and the federal property payments offset the loss of ad valorem tax revenue to school districts due to the acquisition of previously taxable properties by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, ad valorem property taxes paid by Oklahoma families, individuals, businesses, farms and all other property owners, as well as Impact Aid funding, support school districts and the thousands of students served by those school districts; and

WHEREAS, the financial obligations of school districts and the obligation to educate students served by the school districts remain the same regardless of property ownership, date of acquisition of property or use of property; and

WHEREAS, the federal property payment component of the Impact Aid Program provides reimbursement to school districts for Indian lands, military bases, low-rent housing, and other federal property to make up lost property tax revenue due to the nontaxable status of the federally owned property; and

WHEREAS, existing property owners located within the jurisdictional boundaries of school districts already bear a significant burden in the financial support of school districts that are affected by the federal acquisition of private lands; and

WHEREAS, raising additional local ad valorem tax revenue to support school districts is unrealistic and overly burdensome to local property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, currently 298 school districts in Oklahoma annually apply for and receive more than \$30,000,000.00 collectively from Impact Aid funding; and

WHEREAS, the school districts in Oklahoma receiving Impact Aid qualify under all sections of the law; and

WHEREAS, Impact Aid funding is of critical importance in providing quality educational opportunities for the more than 221,000 students educated by the 298 school districts which receive the funding; and

WHEREAS, every student throughout the educational journey of the student deserves the same opportunities to enrich their life through education, and Impact Aid funding is a key component in providing those educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has an obligation to rectify the negative financial impact to school districts that is caused by federal ownership of property within the boundaries of the district.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 53RD OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

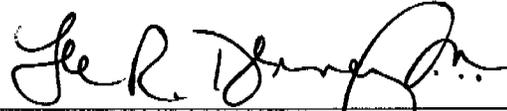
THAT the Legislature strongly opposes the elimination of funding for federal property payments under Section 8002 of Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

THAT the Legislature encourages the President of the United States and the United States Congress to fully fund the federal property payment component of federal Impact Aid, as well as all other components of the program, and to take responsibility for the impact that federal property has on school districts and to alleviate the burden on the local property taxpayer caused by federal land ownership, as has been the standard for more than 60 years.

THAT the Legislature requests that the United States Congress take action this year to reauthorize the Impact Aid law either as a part of the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or as stand-alone legislation.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Education, and each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 2nd day of April, 2012.



Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

Adopted by the Senate the 25th day of April, 2012.



Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Secretary of State this _____

30th day of April, 2012

at 2:22 o'clock P M.

By: Michelle R. Day