

ENGROSSED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 43

By: Herbert of the Senate

and

Nations of the House

A Concurrent Resolution directing the Department of Transportation to halt efforts to privatize highway maintenance; providing for an interim study; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation has expressed its intent to privatize highway maintenance in the state's two major metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Legislature has not given the Department of Transportation statutory authority to privatize highway maintenance in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa area; and

WHEREAS, according to Title X of the Oklahoma Constitution, the State Legislature is accountable to the citizens of Oklahoma for the expenditure of taxpayer funds; and

WHEREAS, the privatization of University Hospital and Quartz Mountain Lodge, the use of private prison beds, and the downsizing of Eastern State Hospital required statutory authority; and

WHEREAS, the privatization of the Robert M. Greer Center without legislative authorization has been overturned by District Court and is pending before the Oklahoma Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, the market has too few vendors in highway maintenance to provide adequate competition; and

WHEREAS, the privatization of highway maintenance has not proved successful in other states; and

WHEREAS, highway maintenance is a core function of state government and should be retained within the Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the best interests of the state and the citizens of Oklahoma are not served by privatizing highway maintenance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature directs the Department of Transportation to retain highway maintenance as a core competency and halt efforts to privatize highway maintenance in the state's two major metropolitan areas.

THAT an interim study be conducted to address legislative concerns with the privatization of highway maintenance.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to each member of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission.

Adopted by the Senate the 21st day of May, 2001.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
2001.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives