



Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave
Colorado's Fourth Congressional District



1208 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4676

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 4, 2003

CONTACT: Aaron Johnson

(202) 225-4676

Fighting For Better Highways Nationwide

Rep. Musgrave urges Congress to pass responsible transportation laws

Washington, DC: Today, Representative Marilyn Musgrave urged her colleagues in the House of Representatives to oppose a recent proposal to increase the federal gasoline tax. In a speech on the floor of the House, Musgrave called upon fellow Members of Congress to uphold their responsibility as elected officials to be good stewards of taxpayer' money and to pass laws that provide a safe and viable highway infrastructure.

Musgrave delivered her address today as the Congress prepares to vote on the Fiscal Year 2004 Transportation and Treasury Appropriations bill. This important legislation will provide each state with needed money to try to cope with the increasingly severe needs for highway infrastructure nationwide.

Since being elected to Congress, Musgrave has been a strong opponent of the gas tax increase, which is a proposed method to fund the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). Such an increase in the tax would immediately result in an estimated 5.4 cents increase per gallon of gas. In addition, since this tax will be indexed to inflation, it would be set on autopilot and increase every year.

In her speech, Musgrave stated:

"Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address one of the most important issues we will debate during the 108th Congress, the reauthorization of TEA-21.

"TEA-21 funding ends on September 30, 2003, less than 30 days from now, yet so far this Congress has failed to even introduce a reauthorization bill. As our highways, bridges and city streets fall apart, this House has failed to act and time is running out.

"Tragically, instead of seeking out creative transportation reforms, it seems that many in this body have decided that raising taxes and indexing them to inflation is the "best" way to be good stewards of taxpayer's money. This idea is not only counter to our Republican ideals, but it is also irresponsible, regressive, and counterproductive to our efforts to pass meaningful tax cuts earlier this year.

"When Coloradans sent me to Congress, they did so knowing I am a fiscal conservative who wants to make government smaller, not bigger. I will not stand idly by while their taxes are drastically raised. What member of the body ran for office on the promise to increase the gas tax by almost 50 percent? No one! The majority of my colleagues ran

Continued on second page.

on the promise of smaller government and lower taxes. Colleagues, lets keep that commitment to the American people.

"It is time to see a TEA-21 reauthorization bill with meaningful reforms. We don't owe American taxpayers a huge tax hike, we owe them an infrastructure that works."

#

Marilyn Musgrave was elected to the United States House of Representatives in January 2003, and she represents Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. Musgrave is a member of the House Committees on Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, and Small Business. To learn more about Rep. Musgrave please visit her official website at <http://www.house.gov/musgrave>.