

H.J.RES. 621 (HOS)

HARLEY O. STAGGERS  
2D DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

CHAIRMAN:  
COMMITTEE ON  
INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN  
COMMERCE

HOME ADDRESS:  
KEYSER, WEST VIRGINIA

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

November 1, 1977

Mr. John D. Hurd  
Executive Vice President  
West Virginia Chamber of Commerce  
Box 2789  
Charleston, West Virginia

Dear John:

Thank you very much for your letter of recent date enclosing copy of the Resolutions adopted at your meeting on October 11.

It is always good hearing from you, John, and I note your support of the Social Security financing bill as well as the Alaska pipeline measure.

As you may know, last week the House did pass the Social Security bill, and this week we will consider the Pipeline proposal.

Again, thanking you for writing me and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

HARLEY O. STAGGERS

WEST VIRGINIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Box 2789 / Charleston, West Virginia 25330 / Telephone (304) 342-1115

October 17, 1977

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*Dear John*  
cc

The Honorable Harley O. Staggers  
U. S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Staggers:

Enclosed are copies of two resolutions passed by the Board of Directors of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce at its meeting October 11, 1977 in Charleston.

The first is our position on a proposal to restore financial stability in the social security system and the second urges congressional support of the so-called Alcan natural gas pipeline routing as the best means of delivering gas from the Alaskan slopes to the lower 48 states.

We urge your favorable response to both of these critical matters.

Sincerely,

*J. D. Hurd*

John D. Hurd  
Executive Vice President

/p

Re: Alcan Pipeline Approval

Date: October 10, 1977

WHEREAS, the governments of the United States and Canada have reached an agreement in principle on terms and conditions to implement the so-called Alcan Pipeline System for transporting Prudhoe Bay natural gas reserves to the lower 48 states, and,

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has forwarded to Congress his decision to implement the Alcan proposal, and,

WHEREAS, Congress must act by joint resolution within 60 legislative days, failing which the President would be required to re-submit his decision thereby causing delays in Congressional approval until the next session of Congress, and,

WHEREAS, each day of delay causes increased costs approximating one million dollars per day which must ultimately be borne by natural gas consumers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce urge all members of the West Virginia Congressional Delegation to (1) expedite approvals--during the current Congressional session--of the decision favoring the Alcan highway route for the transportation of Prudhoe Bay natural gas reserves, and (2) urge their colleagues in Congress to take similar action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all six members of the West Virginia Congressional Delegation.

Origin: Public Affairs Committee

Re: Funding of the Social Security System

Date: September 1, 1977 (adopted unanimously)

Official copy of this resolution, after being considered by the Public Affairs Committee, became misplaced and was not forwarded to the Policy Review Committee for its consideration during the 42nd Annual Meeting.

WHEREAS, the Social Security Program is nearing a financial crisis with the Disability Insurance (DI) trust fund and will be bankrupt in 1979, the Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) trust fund in 1983 and the Hospital Insurance (HI) around 1987, and

WHEREAS, the trust funds may have an unfunded liability totaling over \$5 trillion, and

WHEREAS, due to the 1972 amendments will result in future retirees drawing more in monthly benefits because all future benefits have a "coupling" effect by increasing benefits yearly by the Consumer Price Index plus their regular earnings which also have been increased because of this same index, and

WHEREAS, the Administration proposals would use general revenues to reduce these deficits (an estimated \$14 billion by 1980), remove the ceiling on the amount of wages gradually to 100% of wages paid by 1981, and

WHEREAS, Senator Long supports a solution which would place most of the increased costs on employer contributions, and

WHEREAS, using general revenues, already in a deficit, to assist another deficit fund, increase inflationary pressure and destroy the traditional approach of joint funding of benefits,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce support the following proposals: (1) Raise the tax rate on employer and the employee by .3% (three-tenths) in 1978; (2) raise the OASDI rate on the self-employed to one-and-one-half times the employee rate (to 9%); (3) correct the over-adjustment for inflation by decoupling the CPI Index from the formula, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this position be reflected in the Chamber Policy Statement and our position transmitted to the West Virginia Congressional Delegation.