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**SENATE BILL 5167**

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**State of Washington**                      **53rd Legislature**                      **1993 Regular Session**

**By** Senators M. Rasmussen, Snyder and Barr

Read first time 01/15/93. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to highways; directing construction of a Naches  
2 Pass tunnel; adding new sections to Title 47 RCW; creating a new  
3 section; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6            (1) The Washington state highway commission and the Washington toll  
7 bridge authority, now combined under the department of transportation  
8 and the transportation commission, were authorized and directed,  
9 originally in 1959, to act jointly with the joint fact-finding  
10 committee on highways, streets, and bridges to determine the  
11 feasibility of undertaking construction of a Naches cut-off and tunnel  
12 on state route No. 410 through the Cascade mountains;

13            (2) The state highway commission, toll bridge authority, and the  
14 joint fact-finding committee were further authorized and directed to  
15 engage and retain an independent engineering firm to prepare traffic,  
16 engineering, and financial studies and surveys;

17            (3) The state highway commission has been previously granted the  
18 necessary authority to acquire rights of way and to proceed with the  
19 construction of the Naches tunnel;

1 (4) The increased volume of intermountain cross-state traffic in  
2 the past thirty years and future projected increases point up the  
3 desirability and imperative need for an additional all-weather highway  
4 through the Cascade mountains; and such a cross-Cascade connection  
5 would greatly enhance the overall economy of the state, speed cross-  
6 state travel without mountain pass delays, and enhance the growing  
7 tourism and destination resort skiing industries; and

8 (5) An all-weather, year-round Cascade crossing would reduce  
9 highway traffic fatalities and provide highway transportation and  
10 private vehicle time saving between the eastern and western areas of  
11 the state, along with transportation fuel economy.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to Title 47 RCW to  
13 read as follows:

14 The Washington state transportation commission shall complete its  
15 plan for a Naches Pass tunnel with dispatch, and the department shall  
16 commence immediate construction of a Naches Pass tunnel and cut-off on  
17 state route No. 410 through the Cascade mountains.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to Title 47 RCW to  
19 read as follows:

20 The state department of transportation shall forthwith select and  
21 acquire, by purchase or condemnation, such lands as may be necessary to  
22 accomplish the directive given in section 2 of this act, and shall  
23 forthwith do all other acts and things necessary to carry out the  
24 purposes of this act without delay.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
27 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
28 effect immediately.

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