

On Wednesday, October 10, Congressman Lee Terry joined with Congressman Leonard Boswell of Iowa to introduce the Anti-Tolling Act of 2007. This bi-partisan bill prevents States from imposing tolls on federal highways, bridges and tunnels until the respective state repays the U.S. government any federal money used to construct this infrastructure. While Boswell and Terry are the lead Democrat and Republican on the bill, fellow Nebraska Congressman Jeff Fortenberry was an original co-sponsor as were Pennsylvania Congressmen Phil English and John Peterson.

"The concept behind this bill is simple: no American should have to pay a tax at the pump to construct a bridge, tunnel or highway and then be required to pay what amounts to another tax for using the same infrastructure," said Terry. Federal spending on highways, bridges and tunnels is funded through the 18.4 cents per gallon federal fuels tax. States may impose their own taxes on gasoline as well.

Congressman Terry continued, "Requiring the states to pay back the federal government before imposing tolls on infrastructure funded through federal funds is not only fair to taxpayers, but would also replenish the Federal Highway Trust Fund in order to fund additional needed infrastructure projects."

"Congressman DeFazio, the Chairman of the Highways and Transit Transportation Subcommittee already has expressed interest in issues surrounding tolling on existing federal highways. I am cautiously optimistic that his Subcommittee will hold hearings on the issue and pass our bill."



