



HR1022

LRB097 21329 KXB 69148 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, From east to west and west to east, United States Highway 50 connects the country from coast to coast, stretching from Ocean City, Maryland, to Sacramento, California, passing through cities across the country including Washington D.C., Cincinnati, St. Louis, Kansas City, Carson City, and Lake Tahoe; and

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WHEREAS, In Illinois, US Highway 50 runs 165.79 miles east to west across the southern portion of the State, between Interstate 70 to the north and Interstate 64 to the south; except for interchanges and a small section near the Indiana border, the Illinois Section of US Highway 50 is only 2-lanes; and

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WHEREAS, In order for a community to realize its maximum opportunity for economic development, it must have a direct, safe, and efficient connection to the potential markets in the surrounding area; and

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois Department of Transportation is responsible for planning and designing safe access to US Highway 50; and

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WHEREAS, Phase I engineering studies were completed for US

1 Route 50 from Lebanon to the Indiana state line between the
2 years of 1969 and 1973, and the Illinois Department of
3 Transportation also funded a feasibility study in 2007 to
4 identify the requirements and cost of upgrading to a 4-lane
5 highway; and

6 WHEREAS, The feasibility study was completed and approved
7 by the Illinois Department of Transportation in 2008 and
8 declared a feasible expansion project; the funding of
9 \$5,000,000 for the Phase I study was secured in 2009 in the
10 Capital Bill; and

11 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Transportation signed
12 the Phase I Environmental Energy Study Contract for \$3.6
13 million in July 2011, with the remaining \$1.4 million
14 designated for design engineering of this corridor; and

15 WHEREAS, The Illinois Route 50 Coalition was first created
16 in 2006 to support the expiation of Route 50 as a means to
17 provide economic development to an area of Illinois that has
18 suffered population loss in the past decade; and

19 WHEREAS, There is no better route from St. Louis to
20 Cincinnati than the US Route 50 Highway which will revive rural
21 communities and provide economic growth; and

1 WHEREAS, The communities of Lawrence, Richland, Clay,
2 Marion, Clinton and St. Clair Counties, and the communities of
3 Lawrenceville, Bridgeport, Sumner, Olney, Noble, Clay, Xenia,
4 Iuka, Salem, Centralia, Hoffman, Carlyle, Beckemeyer, Breese,
5 Aviston, Trenton, and Summerfield are in strong favor of the
6 expansion, and completing the engineering study so the project
7 can begin as soon as funds become available; and

8 WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the State to pursue
9 efforts to improve or extend the Route 50 Four-Lane Expansion
10 Project between the Indiana state line and connecting with
11 Interstate 64 in Illinois; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we encourage State and federal officials to provide funding for
15 this important project as soon as it becomes available; and be
16 it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
18 presented to the Illinois Secretary of Transportation, the
19 United States Secretary of Transportation, Governor Quinn, to
20 each member of the Illinois Congressional delegation, and to
21 the President of the United States, Barack Obama.