

SHORT TITLE: Transportation; designating United States Highway 81 as "Scenic U.S. Highway 81"; suitable markers; distribution.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

SENATE JOINT  
RESOLUTION NO. 30

By: Martin, Helton, Long (Ed),  
Gustafson, Price and  
Muegge of the Senate

and

Smith (Bill), Ramsey,  
Reese, O'Neal, Kouba, Pope  
(Clay), Mitchell,  
Pettigrew, Langmacher,  
Askins, Voskuhl and Glover  
of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Joint Resolution designating U.S. Highway 81 as "Scenic U.S. Highway 81"; directing the Department of Transportation to place suitable markers on said highway in Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, millions of Americans across this great nation owe a huge debt of gratitude to the many brave women and men who risked their lives forging trails through the uninhabited wilderness; and

WHEREAS, these heroic pioneers, fearlessly blazing paths, opened doors to the early settlement and regional economic development expansion across the United States; and

WHEREAS, one such famous rugged trader, guide and trailblazer, Jesse Chisholm, founded the well-known trade route called the Chisholm Trail; and

WHEREAS, the renowned Chisholm Trail extended from the southern tip of Texas, moved northward across Indian Territory, which is now Oklahoma, and ended in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1867, the Chisholm Trail was one of the principal economic trade pathways, used mostly by the cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, in the ten years from 1867 to 1877, more than three million head of cattle were herded through Oklahoma on their way to the Kansas railways, from which they were shipped to other parts of the country; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that the Chisholm Trail carried what was probably the greatest migration of domestic animals in the history of the world; and

WHEREAS, part of the famed Chisholm Trail now parallels U.S. Highway 81 in Oklahoma and passes through special communities including Terral, Ryan, Waurika, Duncan, Marlow, Chickasha, El Reno, Kingfisher, Enid, Pond Creek, and Medford; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to promote tourism and development in these unique towns located along U.S. Highway 81; and

WHEREAS, these distinct localities on this famous highway feature a rich and varied history reflecting special trail tours, fascinating historical and museum sites, delightful stores, and contrasting landscapes; and

WHEREAS, advertising U.S. Highway 81 as a scenic highway will entice many Oklahomans, out-of-state sightseers and visitors traveling through this region to enjoy and view the beautiful countryside and many striking historical attractions located along this celebrated route.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. U.S. Highway 81 in Oklahoma, which follows part of the historical path of the acclaimed Chisholm Trail, shall be designated as "Scenic U.S. Highway 81".

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation shall cause suitable markers to be placed at appropriate sites along U.S. Highway 81 in Oklahoma bearing the name "Scenic U.S. Highway 81".

SECTION 3. A copy of this resolution shall be distributed to the Cabinet Secretary for Transportation and to the Director of the Department of Transportation.

45-2-1718

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