

SHORT TITLE: Directing a moratorium on realigning historic Route 66 without legislative approval; directing application to place Route 66 on the National Register of Historic Places.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

SENATE

RESOLUTION NO. 54

By: Haney and Capps

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution directing a moratorium on realigning Historic Route 66 without legislative approval; directing an application to place Route 66 on the National Register of Historic Places; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Historic U.S. Route 66 continues to grow in stature as a powerful and poignant symbol of the Depression and Dust Bowl era migration, the post-World War II tourism boom and the American spirit in general; and

WHEREAS, Route 66 has been immortalized in literature, song and other artistic impressions as an integral part of our nation's history and is strongly connected to Oklahoma because it was conceived and designated by Oklahoma's first highway commissioner, Cyrus S. Avery, and that it was later named the Will Rogers Highway; and

WHEREAS, the entire length of Route 66 has become severely fragmented since the implementation of the interstate highway system and other road projects subsequent to Route 66's decertification in 1985; and

WHEREAS, drastic increases in tourist traffic, both domestic and foreign and the resultant economic revitalization of many Route 66 communities establishes the value of Route 66 as a resource that should be cultivated and promoted; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has proposed a plan which will change the path of U.S. Highway 66 to by-pass the town of

Arcadia, one of the communities which still has the original Route 66 in place. The citizens of Arcadia and the Arcadia Historical and Preservation Society and many others have done an excellent job of promoting the community, based on the attractions of its Route 66 heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate directs the Department of Transportation to declare a moratorium on any realignment of historic Route 66 without expressed legislative approval.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate directs the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and the Oklahoma Historical Society to draft an application to place Route 66 on the National Register of Historic Places to preserve this national treasure for present and future generations.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Department of Transportation, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, the Oklahoma Historical Society, the town of Arcadia and the Oklahoma Route 66 Association.

46-2-2744            THC            (<time=system>)