

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 53

By: Johnson and Martin

A Resolution supporting designation of the Chisholm Trail as a National Historic Trail; urging members of Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation to introduce legislation designating the Chisholm Trail as a National Historic Trail; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the United States Civil War (1861-1865) created a shortage of beef in the states east of the Mississippi River and also created a glut of cattle in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, after the Civil War, in June 1867, Joseph Gettings McCoy, a farsighted businessman, built cattle pens and loading facilities on the Kansas Pacific Railroad at Abilene, Kansas, to ship cattle to eastern markets; and

WHEREAS, creating the Abilene facilities stimulated the Great Cattle Drive Era of the last half of the 19th century; and

WHEREAS, Texas cattle were driven over a trail blazed in part by Jesse Chisholm from near San Antonio, Texas, to Abilene, Kansas, and the railhead, a distance of some eight hundred miles, eventually extending south to Brownsville, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the trail had many names throughout the years, including the Kansas Trail, the McCoy Trail, the Abilene Cattle Trail, the Texas Cattle Trail, or merely The Trail, but became widely known as the Great Chisholm Trail, the most famous of any cattle trail; and

WHEREAS, over this great commercial roadway passed from ten to twelve million cattle and horses, the largest migration of animals known to man; and

WHEREAS, the Chisholm Trail saved the South Central United States from poverty and near bankruptcy following the Civil War.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate, located in the State Capitol which is near this great cattle trail, strongly supports and urges the designation of the Chisholm Trail as a National Historic Trail.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate urges the members of Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation to introduce legislation authorizing and designating the Chisholm Trail as a National Historic Trail.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to members of Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by the Senate the 23rd day of May, 2002.

Presiding Officer of the Senate