ENGROSSED SENATE
JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 55

By: Leftwich of the Senate

and

Perry of the House

A Joint Resolution celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the federal interstate system of highways; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, 2006 is the 50th Anniversary of the United States Interstate Highway System; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the building of our nation's interstate system as the most aggressive public works project in the world and a significant part of our nation's lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, the historic cross-country trip made by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1919, which influenced his vision for a safe and efficient interstate highway system, will be commemorated in June of this year by a symbolic re-enactment preceding June 29, which marks the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 by President Eisenhower; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials has selected Gary Ridley, director of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, to chair the national Interstate 50th Anniversary Steering Committee to organize milestone events on both the state and national levels; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma is known as the "Crossroads of America" where several major interstate highways converge, including Interstate 35, Interstate 40, and Interstate 44; and

WHEREAS, the nation's first segment of an interstate highway to connect two states was a portion of Interstate 35 completed in Kay County in northern Oklahoma, connecting to Kansas, on April 22, 1958; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma was one of the first states to complete its rural interstates when, on June 2, 1975, in Beckham County in western Oklahoma, a segment from the Texas state line to east of Erick, Oklahoma, was dedicated, which opened the final segment of our rural interstate highways; and

WHEREAS, twenty-one percent of the miles driven in Oklahoma are on the interstate system; and

WHEREAS, the interstate system has provided untold benefits to all Americans in terms of commerce, tourism, economic development, safer travel and an efficient and effective transportation system and it has significantly enriched our fabric of life; and

WHEREAS, we remain dedicated to identifying and meeting our future needs and to the preservation and enhancement of Oklahoma's interstate system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the State of Oklahoma hereby celebrates and offers its sincere congratulations to the federal government of the United State of America upon the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the federal interstate system of highways.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Governor, the President of the United States and the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation.

Passed the Senate the 13th day of March, 2006.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 2006.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives