



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

July 9, 2018

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
United State House of Representatives
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 66 (Davis) – as introduced January 3, 2017 – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Shuster:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support H.R. 66, legislation that would establish the Route 66 Centennial Commission. With Route 66 reaching its centennial in 2026, the bill proposes that a commission be formed to take on the task of coming up with a preservation and funding plan for the historic road.

San Bernardino County is home to longest uninterrupted section of Route 66 in the nation. In particular, the 150-mile stretch across the desert between Needles and Barstow retains much of the character the road had in the middle of the 20th Century. Of particular concern are the approximately 130 timber trestle bridges built in the 1920s and 1930s, which have fallen into critical disrepair. There is limited funding available to repair and replace the bridges, which has led to weight restrictions and potential closures. That stretch also provides an alternate route for the parallel, and critical, Interstate 40 when weather or traffic accidents close the interstate.

In addition, the recent designation of the Mojave Trails National Monument highlights that section of Route 66 as its centerpiece, hopefully leading to additional tourist traffic, both domestic and international, which would benefit the County economically and culturally. San Bernardino County is also home to some of the most effective Route 66 enthusiasts, who operate museums and outreach and educational programs to keep the public informed about its historical and current role.

Therefore, the goals of H.R. 66 come at an opportune moment to preserve and protect this uniquely American cultural and historical treasure, while providing opportunities to leverage programs and funding to ensure it will remain intact for future generations.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support H.R. 66. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Lovingood".

Robert Lovingood
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: San Bernardino County Federal Legislative Delegation

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