



New Mexico Route 66 Association

Dedicated to education, promotion, and preservation of New Mexico's Historic Route 66 Scenic Byway and economic revitalization along its 604 mile stretch throughout the state since 1989.- Est. 1989. A 501-(c)3 Non-Profit.

- **2004 New Mexico Heritage Preservation Award Winner**
- **National Scenic Byways Best Practices Recognition**
- **2003 Preservation Project of the Year: Route 66 Magazine**

President: Melissa Lea Beasley Vice President: Sue Montgomery Treasurer: Jennifer Lazarz Secretary: Paul McLaughlin

December 15, 2022

Subject: New Mexico Route 66 Centennial Commission

Honorable Senator Pete Campos, New Mexico State Legislature

Dear Senator Campos,

I hope this e-mail finds you well during the busy holiday season. Per our discussion in Santa Rosa a few months ago, I am writing to request your help in forming our New Mexico Route 66 Centennial Commission.

I am a board member of the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership who accomplished the passing of bill H.R.66 - Route 66 Centennial Commission Act, 115th Congress (2017-2018). This bill established the Route 66 Centennial Commission, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to prepare a plan on the preservation needs of Route 66, and for other purposes leading up to its centennial in 2026.

My next step as a board member and the representative for the state of New Mexico is to establish our state commission. The Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership has given us guidelines and shared documents to assist us with forming our state commission. Once our commission is established, we desire to obtain funds available to complete several key projects on Route 66 throughout our state. We want to make sure New Mexico Route 66 is shining for its 100th Anniversary.

It was suggested I contact a legislator to introduce a bill to establish an official New Mexico Route 66 Centennial Commission. I'm unsure if this means contacting US House of representative members Teresa Leger-Fernandez, Yvette Harrell (being replaced by Gabe Vasquez) or Melanie Stansbury to assist in this project, or if I could work with you. Seeing I have already discussed this project with you, I would prefer to work with you to spearhead this and could use your assistance and guidance on the proper chain of events that need to happen to accomplish this task.

With this, I respectfully submit the following for your review:

- 1) A copy of the H.R.66 - Route 66 Centennial Commission Act 115th Congress (2017-2018). It outlines the purpose and goals of the act. It also outlines who and what the membership of the commission should consist of.
- 2) A copy of the legislation enacted to set up the State of Illinois Route 66 Centennial Commission. Illinois legislator Tim Butler, who wrote this bill, gave the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership permission to share it with other states to use as a model.

I have received confirmation of several key individuals in positions of power on Route 66 that are more than willing to write letters of recommendation if they are needed. This consists of leaders of the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership and State Association Presidents.

I am anxious to get the ball rolling on whatever is needed on my end to ensure New Mexico gets its fair share of all federal funds available. If you could please assist and guide me through the proper steps, I would be grateful.

Respectfully,



Melissa Lea Beasley-Lee
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