

SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF OUR ROUTE 66 LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN

There are currently two Bills in the U.S. House of Representatives dealing with the future of Route 66. The first is H.R. 66 *“To establish 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”* (<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr66ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr66ih.pdf>). The bill calls for the creation of a committee whose goals are: “The Commission shall have the following duties:

- (1) To study activities that may be carried out by the Federal Government to determine whether the activities are fitting and proper to honor Route 66 on the occasion of its centennial anniversary, including any of the activities described under section 8(b)(2)(B).
- (2) To recommend to Congress the activities the Commission considers most fitting and proper to honor Route 66 on such occasion, to be carried out by the Department of Transportation and any other entity or entities within the Federal Government that the Commission considers most appropriate to carry out such activities.
- (3) To plan and host, in cooperation with such partners, a conference on the U.S. Numbered Highway System, and assist in the activities of such a conference.”

As a member of the Route 66 Car Club of Flagstaff, and residents of Coconino County in northern Arizona, we support this bill because of the important roles Route 66 has played in the history of our city, county and state; because of the significant economic driver Route 66 is today bringing tourists from the world over to our city; for the fun, the romance and the history of early transcontinental highway travel.

The second bill is H.R. 801 *“To amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, and for other purposes”* (<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr801ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr801ih.pdf>). This bill calls for:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Route 66 National Historic Trail, a trail of approximately 2,400 miles extending from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, and following the route generally depicted on the map entitled IIIII, numbered IIIII , and dated IIIII (there are no numbers in the bill for this map!).

“(B) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map described in subparagraph (A) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Director of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, the District of Columbia.

“(C) ADMINISTRATION.—The Route 66 National Historic Trail shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service. Such administration shall be conducted in a manner that respects and maintains the idiosyncratic nature of the Route 66 National Historic Trail.

“(D) LAND ACQUISITION.—The United States may not acquire for the Route 66 National Historic Trail any land or interest in land—“(i) outside the exterior boundary of any federally managed area without the consent of the owner of the land or interest in land; or “(ii) that extends more than an average of one-quarter of a mile on either side of the trail.

“(E) NO BUFFER ZONE CREATED.—Nothing in this Act, the acquisition of the land or an interest in land authorized by this Act, or the management plan for the Route 66 National Historic Trail shall be construed to create buffer zones outside of the Trail. That activities or uses can be seen, heard, or

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detected from the acquired land shall not preclude, limit, control, regulate, or determine the conduct or management of activities or uses outside of the trail.”.

As members of the Route 66 Car Club of Flagstaff and residents of Coconino County, in northern Arizona we would support this bill for many of the reasons as for H.R. 66, but also because of the association and affiliation of the U.S. National Park Service with administration and preservation of the Route 66 corridor, especially given the great amount of work done by the NPS on 66 by their Route 66 Corridor Preservation Office (slated to sunset in 2019).

The people we ought to aim letters at whose districts cover Route 66 in Arizona include:

Tom O’Halloran (<https://ohalleran.house.gov/> , 405 N. Beaver Street Suite 6 Flagstaff, AZ 86001 928-286-5338) Arizona Congressional District 1;

Paul Gosar (<http://gosar.house.gov/> , 122 N. Cortez Street, Suite 104, Prescott, AZ 86301 (928) 445-1683) Arizona Congressional District 4.

Feel free to use the information above to formulate your letter. Refer to the bills by number and title. Speak to the value of Route 66, and what it means to you and our community. Be respectful, be sincere and watch for typos!

Best,

Sean

R. Sean Evans
Associate Archivist
Special Collections and Archives, Cline Library
Box 6022 Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, AZ. 86011-6022
(928) 523-4395
Sean.Evans@nau.edu