



HJ0086

LRB097 21330 KXB 69149 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, From east to west and west to east, United States  
3 Highway 50 connects the country from coast to coast, stretching  
4 from Ocean City, Maryland, to Sacramento, California, passing  
5 through cities across the country including Washington D.C.,  
6 Cincinnati, St. Louis, Kansas City, Carson City, and Lake  
7 Tahoe; and

8 WHEREAS, In Illinois, US Highway 50 runs 165.79 miles east  
9 to west across the southern portion of the State, between  
10 Interstate 70 to the north and Interstate 64 to the south;  
11 except for interchanges and a small section near the Indiana  
12 border, the Illinois Section of US Highway 50 is only 2-lanes;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, In order for a community to realize its maximum  
15 opportunity for economic development, it must have a direct,  
16 safe, and efficient connection to the potential markets in the  
17 surrounding area; and

18 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois Department of  
19 Transportation is responsible for planning and designing safe  
20 access to US Highway 50; and

21 WHEREAS, Phase I engineering studies were completed for US

1 Route 50 from Lebanon to the Indiana state line between the  
2 years of 1969 and 1973, and the Illinois Department of  
3 Transportation also funded a feasibility study in 2007 to  
4 identify the requirements and cost of upgrading to a 4-lane  
5 highway; and

6 WHEREAS, The feasibility study was completed and approved  
7 by the Illinois Department of Transportation in 2008 and  
8 declared a feasible expansion project; the funding of  
9 \$5,000,000 for the Phase I study was secured in 2009 in the  
10 Capital Bill; and

11 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Transportation signed  
12 the Phase I Environmental Energy Study Contract for \$3.6  
13 million in July 2011, with the remaining \$1.4 million  
14 designated for design engineering of this corridor; and

15 WHEREAS, The Illinois Route 50 Coalition was first created  
16 in 2006 to support the expiation of Route 50 as a means to  
17 provide economic development to an area of Illinois that has  
18 suffered population loss in the past decade; and

19 WHEREAS, There is no better route from St. Louis to  
20 Cincinnati than the US Route 50 Highway which will revive rural  
21 communities and provide economic growth; and

1           WHEREAS, The communities of Lawrence, Richland, Clay,  
2           Marion, Clinton and St. Clair Counties, and the communities of  
3           Lawrenceville, Bridgeport, Sumner, Olney, Noble, Clay, Xenia,  
4           Iuka, Salem, Centralia, Hoffman, Carlyle, Beckemeyer, Breese,  
5           Aviston, Trenton, and Summerfield are in strong favor of the  
6           expansion, and completing the engineering study so the project  
7           can begin as soon as funds become available; and

8           WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the State to pursue  
9           efforts to improve or extend the Route 50 Four-Lane Expansion  
10          Project between the Indiana state line and connecting with  
11          Interstate 64 in Illinois; therefore, be it

12          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
13          NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
14          SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we encourage State and federal  
15          officials to provide funding for this important project as soon  
16          as it becomes available; and be it further

17          RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
18          presented to the Illinois Secretary of Transportation, the  
19          United States Secretary of Transportation, Governor Quinn, to  
20          each member of the Illinois Congressional delegation, and to  
21          the President of the United States, Barack Obama.