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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 86

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Leo C. Watchman Jr.

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO
CHANGE THE NUMERIC DESIGNATION OF UNITED STATES ROUTE 666
BEGINNING IN GALLUP, NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, United States route 666 begins in Gallup, New Mexico at the old United States route 66 and runs north through Shiprock and into Colorado and terminates at United States route 191 in Utah; and

WHEREAS, United States route 666 runs through very sparsely populated areas of New Mexico and through more than one hundred miles of the Navajo Nation; and

WHEREAS, the long stretch of two-lane road has a history of being the site of many accidents and although the rate of accidents has decreased due to road improvements, it is still a dangerous stretch of highway; and

WHEREAS, people living near the road already live under

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1 the cloud of opprobrium created by having a road that many
2 believe is cursed running near their homes and through their
3 homeland; and

4 WHEREAS, the number "666" carries the stigma of being the
5 mark of the beast, the mark of the devil, which was described
6 in the book of revelations in the Bible; and

7 WHEREAS, there are people who refuse to travel the road,
8 not because of the issue of safety, but because of the fear
9 that the devil controls events along United States route 666;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the economy in the area is greatly depressed
12 when compared with many parts of the United States and the
13 infamy brought by the inopportune naming of the road will only
14 make development in the area more difficult; and

15 WHEREAS, with the upcoming millennium, because of
16 increased superstition surrounding the millennial change and
17 fear of the purported biblical prophecy, the name of the road
18 will take on greater ignominy and could become the site of
19 millennial actions, catastrophes and public disruptions;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States department of
22 transportation be requested to assign United States route 666
23 a new numeric designation as quickly as possible; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that changing the numeric
25 designation of United States route 666 is similar to omitting

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1 the thirteenth floor of a building, it would provide an added
2 degree of comfort for those using the road; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the assignment of a new
4 numeric designation be completed as quickly as is possible in
5 order to prevent attracting cult activities and other
6 millennial actions, catastrophes or disruptions on this long
7 stretch of very rural highway on which there are few services
8 and fewer emergency medical stations; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the United States secretary of transportation,
11 the president of the Navajo Nation, the speaker of the Navajo
12 Nation council, the secretary of highway and transportation
13 and the engineer of district 6 of the state highway and
14 transportation department.

1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999
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6 March 4, 1999
7

8 Mr. Speaker:
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10 Your TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been
11 referred
12

13 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 86
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15 has had it under consideration and reports same with
16 recommendation that it DO PASS.

17 Respectfully submitted,
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21 _____
22 Daniel P. Silva, Chairman
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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 8 For 3 Against

Yes: 8

No: Crook, Godbey, Urioste

Excused: Heaton, Russell

Absent: None

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March 11, 1999

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Mr. President:

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Your CORPORATIONS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, to

12

whom has been referred

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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 86

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has had it under consideration and reports same with
recommendation that it DO PASS.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Roman M. Maes, Chairman

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Adopted _____ Not

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Adopted _____

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(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

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Date _____

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The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against

12

Yes: 6

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No: 0

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Excused: Aragon, McKibben, Rawson, Robinson

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Absent: None

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