



THE ROAD AHEAD PARTNERSHIP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act Reintroduced to the U.S. House of Representatives

Representatives Darin LaHood (R-IL) and Grace Napolitano (D-CA) reintroduced the Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act to the U.S. House of Representatives on Friday, June 23, 2023. The bill is H.R. 4338. Representatives Jake LaTurner (R-KS) and Joe Neguse (D-CO) joined LaHood and Napolitano as original cosponsors.

In a press release from Representative LaHood's office, he stated, "Designating Route 66 as a National Historic Trail would provide this highway with a permanent program to preserve, promote, and economically develop the road, giving it the appropriate designation it deserves."

Representative Napolitano added, "This legislation will help rehabilitate, improve, and preserve the legacy of the iconic road, benefiting millions of residents and boosting our economic recovery. I am proud to again join my colleague Congressman LaHood in introducing this bipartisan bill that revitalizes Route 66."

The Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership has been an active proponent of the Historic Trail Designation since it was first introduced in June of 2018. "As Route 66 approaches its centennial, the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership can think of no better birthday present for the road than to make it a National Historic Trail," said Road Ahead Chair Bill Thomas. "We commend the efforts of Congressman LaHood and Congresswoman Napolitano in introducing legislation to accomplish this designation."

Passage of this bill would add Route 66 to the National Historic Trail routes. Known as the Route 66 national Historic Trail Designation Act.

Route 66 has been a crucial transportation artery for the heartland of America for nearly 100 years. Towns from the Midwest to the West Coast have seen the Mother Road bring tourism, employment, a higher quality of life, and civic pride to their communities. This legislation will allow visitors from around the world to experience the history of Route 66 and provide local businesses and tourism industries along the route with ongoing economic benefits.

Pam Bowman, Senior Director of Public Lands Policy at the National Trust for Historic Preservation added, "National historic trail designation for Route 66 appropriately recognizes a route internationally recognized as an iconic symbol representing America's love of the open road with a rich history associated with Dustbowl migration, World War II, and a travel route celebrated in music, literature, television, movies, and popular lore. We sincerely appreciate Representatives Darin LaHood and Grace Napolitano for their

years of leadership supporting the preservation and economic vitality of the Route 66 corridor and look forward to Congress approving the designation.”

Established in 2015, with the support of the National Park Service and the World Monuments' Fund, The Road Ahead Partnership's mission is to revitalize and sustain Route 66 as a national and international icon through partnerships focused on economic development, promotion, preservation, and research and education.

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