

Resolution 887

By the City of Clinton, OK

in support of the designation of Route 66 as a National Historic Trail

WHEREAS, Route 66 was our nation's first all-paved U.S. Highway System connecting the Midwest to California. In the 1930s, it was the "road to opportunity" for hundreds of thousands of Americans escaping the devastation of the Dust Bowl, and provided thousands of jobs on road crews for workers who had were unemployed during the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, Throughout World War II, critical troops, equipment and supplies were transported on Route 66 to military bases across the country. After the war ended, thousands of troops traveled Route 66 back home to their families and independence; and

WHEREAS, upon the replacement of Route 66 by the Interstate System, which led to its decommissioning in 1985, resulted in economic hardship for these local businesses that thrived on providing services to the Route 66 traveler; and

WHEREAS, Route 66 has become an iconic symbol of American's search for freedom, adventure, and prosperity which annually brings travelers from around the world who use it to discover America; and

WHEREAS, a *Special Resources Study* completed by the National Park Service has determined that Route 66 meets all the criteria for federal designation as a National Historic Trail; and

WHEREAS, the designation of Route 66 as a permanent National Historic Trail could have a significant economic impact in the eight states along the route and help spur preservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, Route 66 would be the first National Historic Trail to celebrate motorized travel and America's love affair with the automobile; and

WHEREAS, Congress recognized the importance of the road by establishing the National Park Service's Rt. 66 Corridor Preservation Program in the National Trails Office in 1999 to foster preservation, economic development and marketing through matching grants, which has leveraged more than \$4 million in historic preservation investment; and

WHEREAS, In addition to its historic significance, Route 66 has proven itself a major economic force for the communities it passes through. Designation as a National Historic Trail will help to increase the economic impact of Route 66 in hundreds of communities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Clinton City Council that the City of Clinton, Oklahoma fully endorses and supports the designation of Route 66 as a National Historic Trail.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 19th Day of June, 2018.

David Berrong, Mayor

ATTEST

Lisa Anders, City Clerk