

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION TO PROCEED WITH PLANS TO FOUR-LANE
U.S. HIGHWAY 85 BETWEEN WATFORD CITY AND BELFIELD, ND.**

WHEREAS, the accident and fatality rate on U.S. Highway 85 between Watford City and Belfield is significantly increasing; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Legislature has budgeted \$1.5 billion in this biennium for transportation improvements in Western North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Legislature has allocated \$590 million oil in and gas revenue as the source of funding for these transportation improvements; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Department of Transportation has indicated that safely moving people and goods is its major priority; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota experiences an annual construction inflation of 12-20 percent annually; and

WHEREAS, we support the North Dakota Department of Transportation in their current construction improvements to U.S. Highway 85 from Watford City to Williston, including bypass routes; and

WHEREAS, an Environmental assessment will determine impacts and mitigation of the highway expansion through Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY _____ THEODORE ROOSEVELT EXPRESSWAY _____ THAT:

1. Safety of the traveling public is of paramount importance and currently U.S. Highway 85 conditions are resulting in significant accidents and fatalities.
2. The current status of U.S. Highway 85 from Watford City to Belfield is impeding the very industry from which the revenue budgeted by the North Dakota Legislature is being collected for infrastructure improvements statewide.
3. The current status of U.S. Highway 85 from Watford City to Belfield is also limiting the interest of the labor force needed to serve the energy industry in western North Dakota.
4. The current status of U.S. Highway 85 from Watford City to Belfield is also creating a dangerous situation for visitors to western North Dakota, especially those visiting Theodore Roosevelt National Park and other public available Federal lands.
5. Delaying the planning and construction of this project will result in additional unnecessary cost to the taxpayers in North Dakota.
6. The proposed improvements would affect only existing roadway within the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
7. I/We join with others to urge the North Dakota Department of Transportation to proceed with plans to expand the existing U.S. Highway 85 from Watford City to Belfield to a four lane highway including the portion traversing the Theodore Roosevelt National Park and other Federal Lands.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED ON _____, 2013

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Comments