

# FRIENDS OF AMERICA'S BYWAYS

May 20, 2011

The Honorable John L. Mica  
Chairman, Transportation and  
Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nick Rahall  
Ranking Member, Transportation and  
Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John J. Duncan, Jr.  
Chairman, Highways and Transit  
Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member, Highways and Transit  
Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Mica, Representative Rahall,  
Representative Duncan and Representative DeFazio:

The National Scenic Byways Program was created by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act in 1991 to celebrate and protect the recreational, cultural, historic and scenic highlights of the nation. It plays a vital role for America's travelers and communities across the country. As national, regional and local organizations that support scenic byways, we urge the Congress to reauthorize the program as a discrete program in the upcoming multi-year surface transportation legislation and to support funding for this valuable program's small but important merit-based grant program to inspire innovation and public-private byways partnerships.

One hundred fifty National Scenic Byways and All-American Roads in 46 states have been designated by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. These routes offer visitors outstanding, world-class opportunities for scenic, recreational, cultural and historic experiences. Not only are the lives of the American people – and visitors to this country – enriched immensely by these experiences, but thousands of communities have been given a new source of pride and economic vitality. These routes also link America's public lands to communities which serve as gateways to parks, forests, refuges and other federally managed lands, and tell stories about our land's geology, history and wildlife.

Scenic byway grants have funded more than 2,800 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico since the program's inception. Last year, communities in 43 states received almost \$41 million to fund 160 scenic byways projects, including corridor management plans, traveler signs and kiosks, visitor facilities, website and podcast development, historic restoration and much more. The key to the success of these grants is their ability to attract private-sector partners, which benefits both the program itself as well as the local communities. Funding has also been provided for the America's Byways Resource Center, which provides valuable technical assistance to byways managers and stakeholders nationwide, helping them to do a better job in managing and marketing byways while enhancing visitor experiences.

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We respectfully request that the Congress continue the National Scenic Byways Program as a discrete federal program in any new surface transportation legislation. The need for national coordination of this program – and especially better integration of the byways program with FHWA support for roads on federally managed lands – makes the continuation of the byways program in its current form a priority.

Sincerely,

*National Friends*

**AAA**

**American Bus Association**

**American Highway Users Alliance**

**American Motorcyclist Association**

**American Recreation Coalition**

**American Road Magazine**

**American Society of Landscape Architects**

**ARVC - National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds**

**Family Motor Coach Association**

**Good Sam Club**

**Keep America Beautiful**

**Motorcycle Industry Council**

**National Association of Counties**

**National Association of Development Organizations**

**National Association of Gateway Communities**

**National Association of State Park Directors**

**National Forest Recreation Association**

**National Park Hospitality Association**

**National Parks Promotion Council**

**National Recreation and Park Association**

**National Scenic Byways Foundation**

**National Ski Areas Association**

**National Tour Association**

**National Trust for Historic Preservation**

**National Wildlife Federation**

**Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association**

**Recreation Vehicle Industry Association**

**Scenic America**

**Southeast Tourism Society**

**United Motorcoach Association**

**U.S. Travel Association**

**Western States Tourism Policy Council**

*Regional and Local Friends*

**Acadia Parish (LA) Convention & Visitors Commission**

**Alaska Scenic Byways**

**Alton (IL) Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau**

**Arkansas Great River Road**

**Arrowhead (MN) Regional Development Commission**  
**Big Bend Scenic Byway Corridor Management Entity (FL)**  
**Blackhawk Waterways Convention & Visitors Bureau (IL)**  
**Hon. Keith Cain, Mayor, City of Princeton (IL)**  
**Cameron Parish (LA) Tourist Commission**  
**Campground Owners Association of Montana**  
**Cherokee Nation**  
**Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
**Chicago's North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau**  
**Colorado River Headwaters National Scenic Byway (CO)**  
**Creole Nature Trail All-American Road (LA)**  
**Crowley's Ridge Parkway (AR)**  
**DeKalb County (IL) Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
**Flint Hills National Scenic Byway Management Committee (KS)**  
**Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway (CO)**  
**Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development (IA)**  
**Great River Road (IL)**  
**Great Rivers National Scenic Byway (MN)**  
**Great Lakes Seaway Trail (NY)**  
**Heritage Corridor Convention & Visitors Bureau (IL)**  
**Iberia Parish (LA) Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
**Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition**  
**Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway**  
**Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway**  
**Hon. John King, Mayor, City of Lewistown (IL)**  
**KRT Productions, Inc. (IL)**  
**Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
**Lakes to Locks Passage Scenic Byway (NY)**  
**Louisiana Travel Promotion Association**  
**Mohawk Towpath Scenic Byway (NY)**  
**Montana-Wyoming KOA Owners**  
**Mt. Hood Scenic Byway (OR)**  
**National Road Association of Illinois**  
**Nauvoo Nature Trail (IL)**  
**Northern Illinois Tourism Development Office**  
**Oklahoma Route 66 Association**  
**Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (IL)**  
**Hon. Robert W. Pritchard, State Representative (Sycamore, IL)**  
**Rock Falls (IL) Tourism**  
**Santa Fe Trail Scenic and Historic Byway (CO)**  
**Scenic Missouri**  
**Scenic Texas, Inc.**  
**Sheyenne River Valley Scenic Byways Association (ND)**  
**SotaVenture (IA), LLC**  
**Strait of Juan de Fuca Highway National Scenic Byway (WA)**  
**Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway (NM)**  
**Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (MN)**  
**Zydeco (LA) Cajun Prairie Scenic Byway**