

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

Relating to the Commission on Interstate 70 Safety and Beautification.

Whereas, the state of Missouri has outstanding natural beauty that Missourians and visitors enjoy; and

Whereas, the rebuilding and improvement of Interstate 70 provides an opportunity to enhance traffic safety and showcase Missouri's natural beauty and highlight its cultural, historical, commercial, and tourist attractions; and

Whereas, Interstate 70 has on average 2.5 times as many billboards per mile than any other state along the I-70 corridor from Maryland to Utah, contributing to increased driver distraction compromising the safety of motorists and passengers; and

Whereas, the Missouri outdoor advertising statute permits the removal of trees and other vegetation, often planted with state tax dollars, to enhance the visibility of outdoor advertising signs; and

Whereas, preserving Missouri's natural scenic beauty and promoting its safety, tourism, and economic development potential are valid public purposes and should be considered during the I-70 rebuild; and

Whereas, this is a transportation, economic development, and quality-of-life issue, and input should be sought from stakeholders in roadside commerce; tourism; outdoor advertising; historical, cultural and scenic conservation; and municipal and county governments; and

Whereas, Missourians deserve safe, well maintained, adequate, and more beautiful highways that are a source of pride and commerce:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Senate of the One Hundred Third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby create the Commission on Interstate 70 Safety and Beautification composed of: the chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety or his designee; the chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee; members of the Missouri Municipal League and the Missouri Association of Counties; and all members of the Scenic Byways Advisory Committee as described in 7 CSR 10-12.030(3). The purpose of the Commission is to study, discuss, and recommend to the Department of Transportation and to the General Assembly strategies to enhance the safety and visual and scenic character of the I-70 corridor through reasonable landscaping, sign control, and highway, bridge, and lighting design standards; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the director of the Missouri Department of Transportation;

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.