

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 91

Introduced by Brewer, 43; Aguilar, 35; Briese, 41; Erdman, 47; Halloran, 33; Williams, 36.

WHEREAS, a number of volunteers from Grand Island to Alliance organized the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway Association to apply for Nebraska Highway 2 to become a Nebraska Scenic Byway in 1999; and

WHEREAS, those volunteers voted on and chose the name Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway for the stretch of Nebraska Highway 2 between Grand Island and Alliance after that stretch was designated as a Nebraska Scenic Byway by Governor Mike Johanns in 1999; and

WHEREAS, the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway extends for two hundred seventy-two miles between Alliance and Grand Island; and

WHEREAS, heading west to east, Alliance, Antioch, Lakeside, Ellsworth, Bingham, Ashby, Hyannis, Whitman, Mullen, Seneca, Thedford, Halsey, Dunning, Anselmo, Merna, Broken Bow, Berwyn, Ansley, Mason City, Litchfield, Hazard, Ravenna, Cairo, and Grand Island are located along the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway; and

WHEREAS, the Sandhills encompass over nineteen thousand square miles and make up the largest area of grass-stabilized sand dunes in the Western Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, the Sandhills are located above the Ogallala Aquifer, the largest aquifer in the world, which contributes water to the numerous wetlands, lakes, and streams that can be seen when traveling the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway; and

WHEREAS, the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway crosses several rivers in the Loup River system; and

WHEREAS, over eighty percent of the world's population of Sandhill Cranes stop along the Platte River near Grand Island during their annual migration;

and

WHEREAS, historical museums with a focus on the prairie and the Sandhills are located along the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2021, the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway was designated as a National Scenic Byway by the Federal Highway Administration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the legislature recognizes over twenty years of efforts by volunteers who worked to get Nebraska Scenic Byway and National Scenic Byway designations for the stretch of Nebraska Highway 2 between Grand Island and Alliance known as the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway and congratulates them on their success.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway Association.