

# BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Kevin P. Leuck, President

David L. Fisher

James R. Gilbert

September 4, 2002

Honorable Frank O'Bannon, Governor  
State of Indiana  
206 State House  
Indianapolis, IN 47904-2797

Dear Governor O'Bannon,

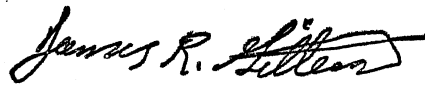

We, the County Commissioners of Benton County, sent you and all State Legislators representing our county, a letter dated December 7, 1999 asking to use your best efforts to preserve needed road funds by promoting the responsible I70/US41 alternative routes.

We still believe that the I-70/US41 route for I-69 will save millions in tax money that could be spent on other transportation projects throughout Indiana as well as saving thousand of acres of productive farm and forestland.

Every township, town, city and county throughout Indiana is having budget concerns due to the State's Budget Crisis. Please use common sense and fiscal responsibility and reconsider the list of "preferred" routes.

Enclosed is Benton County's Resolution dated December 7, 1999 for a Proposed Extension of Interstate 69 Highway.

Respectfully yours,

  
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Kevin P. Leuck  
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James R. Gilbert  
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David L. Fisher

CC: Mike Grovak, Bernardin, Lochmueller & Assoc  
Rod Henry-Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce

706 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street ♦ Fowler, IN 47944  
Phone: 706-884-1687 ♦ Fax: 765-884-2013

**Resolution - Proposed Extension of the Interstate 69 Highway**

WHEREAS, the State of Indiana is proposing to extend the Interstate 69 highway from Indianapolis to Evansville; and

WHEREAS, the proposed all-new highway is estimated to cost over \$1.1 billion; and

WHEREAS, an alternative route for I-69 using upgraded existing roadways -- Interstate 70, an already-planned bypass around Terre Haute and US 41 upgraded to interstate standards -- is estimated to cost about \$500 million and is only 10 miles longer; and

WHEREAS, the I-70/US 41 alternative route for I-69 saves about \$600 million in Indiana road funds at a cost of only 10 minutes' extra driving time from Indianapolis to Evansville; and

WHEREAS, the enormous expense of the proposed new highway would unnecessarily drain Indiana's limited road funds, leaving less money available to maintain, repair and upgrade roads in Benton County and across Indiana; and


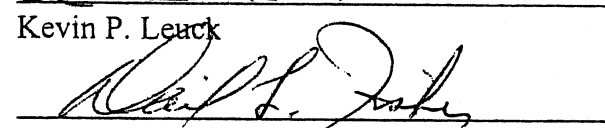
WHEREAS, the proposed new highway would also unnecessarily destroy more farmland and woodlands than any other project proposed anywhere in Indiana; and

WHEREAS, local governments and citizens along the I-70/US 41 corridor overwhelmingly support locating I-69 there;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Benton County Board of Commissioners** supports the I-70/US 41 alternative route for Interstate 69 from Indianapolis to Evansville, and opposes the proposed all-new I-69 highway; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the **Benton County Board of Commissioners** urges Governor Frank O'Bannon to select the fiscally, agriculturally and environmentally responsible I-70/US 41 route for Interstate 69; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the **Benton County Board of Commissioners** urges all state legislators representing our county to use their best efforts to preserve needed road funds by promoting the responsible I-70/US 41 alternative route for Interstate 69 and opposing the proposed all-new I-69 highway.

  
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Kevin P. Leuck  
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David L. Fisher  
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James R. Gilbert

Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1999

Resolution for I69