

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14—SENATORS TITUS, MATHEWS, AMODEI, CARE, CARLTON, COFFIN, JACOBSEN, JAMES, MCGINNESS, NEAL, O’CONNELL, O’DONNELL, PORTER, RAGGIO, RAWSON, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, SHAFFER, TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON AND WIENER

MAY 3, 2001

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN MANENDO, ANDERSON, ANGLE, ARBERRY, BACHE, BEERS, BERMAN, BROWER, BROWN, BUCKLEY, CARPENTER, CEGAVSKE, CHOWNING, CLABORN, COLLINS, DE BRAGA, DINI, FREEMAN, GIBBONS, GIUNCHIGLIANI, GOLDWATER, GUSTAVSON, HETTRICK, HUMKE, KOIVISTO, LEE, LESLIE, MARVEL, MCCLAIN, MORTENSON, NEIGHBORS, NOLAN, OCEGUERA, OHRENSCHALL, PARKS, PARNELL, PERKINS, PRICE, SMITH, TIFFANY, VON TOBEL AND WILLIAMS

Declared an Emergency Measure

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to dedicate Old Spanish Trail and Antonio Armijo Route of Old Spanish Trail as National Historic Trail. (BDR R-1504)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to dedicate the Old Spanish Trail and the Antonio Armijo Route of the Old Spanish Trail as a National Historic Trail.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Old Spanish Trail, which ran between Santa Fe, New
- 2 Mexico, and Los Angeles, California, was the first non-Native American
- 3 trail to cross Nevada and remains the least known trail; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Traders, couriers and emigrants en route between Santa Fe
- 5 and Los Angeles followed Indian trails in blazing the Spanish Trail through
- 6 Clark County; and
- 7 WHEREAS, The journey of Antonio Armijo, a trader from New Mexico,
- 8 through Nevada in 1829 and 1830 linked the historic 1776 routes of the
- 9 Dominguez-Escalante expedition through Utah and the Garces’ exploration
- 10 into Southern California and used a portion of the 1826 and 1827 routes of
- 11 Jedediah Smith to California; and



1 WHEREAS, Antonio Armijo was the first to link the interior of the
2 Southwest with the California coast successfully, thus opening a
3 commercial trade route, approximately 1,121 miles long, that functioned
4 between 1829 and 1848 as the main artery connecting the interior to the
5 coast which later became known as the Old Spanish Trail and is so named
6 in modern literature; and

7 WHEREAS, Captain John C. Fremont of the United States Corps of
8 Topographic Engineers was commissioned in 1843 by the War Department
9 to find and map the Oregon Trail, an assignment which he completed
10 successfully; and

11 WHEREAS, After documenting the Oregon Trail, Captain Fremont, in an
12 effort to expand his government's knowledge about California, pushed
13 south through Northern Nevada into California; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1844, Fremont sought the Spanish Trail to guide his party
15 eastward from California and followed the trail through California and
16 Nevada to his point of departure from Utah Lake the previous year; and

17 WHEREAS, The route of the trail Fremont followed from California,
18 which he named the Spanish Trail in the report of his expedition that he
19 filed with the War Department, led him across Southern Nevada from
20 Stump Spring to the Virgin River via Mountain Springs Pass, Blue
21 Diamond, Las Vegas Springs and the Muddy River; and

22 WHEREAS, This route was previously pioneered by traders from New
23 Mexico who spoke Spanish, a fact used by Captain Fremont in designating
24 the "Camino de California" or "Camino de Nuevo Mexico" as the Spanish
25 Trail; and

26 WHEREAS, Fremont's report and map were so important to the plans of
27 the United States for Western expansion that the United States Senate and
28 House of Representatives each printed 10,000 copies of the report and
29 map; and

30 WHEREAS, Copies of the report and map were available to thousands of
31 emigrants heading westward to California who came to know the route
32 they followed as Fremont's Spanish Trail; and

33 WHEREAS, The pioneers who used Fremont's route became familiar
34 with the promising potential of Southern Nevada for settlement which led
35 specifically to the founding of Las Vegas or "The Meadows," whose name
36 reflects its importance as a major camp site along the Spanish Trail; and

37 WHEREAS, The Old Spanish Trail is the foundation of succeeding routes
38 of transport and travel through Southern Nevada including the Mormon
39 Road, portions of the routes of the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake
40 Railroad and the Union Pacific Railroad which succeeded it, and the
41 Arrowhead Trail Highway and its successors U.S. Highway No. 91 and
42 Interstate Highway No. 15; and

43 WHEREAS, This historic route for travelers facilitated expansion of the
44 boundaries of the United States to include New Mexico, Colorado, Utah,
45 Arizona, Nevada and California; and

46 WHEREAS, The Spanish Trail was preferred by Kit Carson when
47 carrying military dispatches in 1848 to Washington, D.C., which first
48 brought news of gold at Sutter's Fort and resulted in the Gold Rush of
49 1849; and



1 WHEREAS, Information about this ancient route of trade and commerce
2 is still limited, and much more can be learned about the Old Spanish Trail;
3 now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,
5 JOINTLY, That the members of the Nevada Legislature do hereby urge the
6 Congress of the United States to adopt legislation that dedicates the Old
7 Spanish Trail and the Antonio Armijo Route of the Old Spanish Trail as a
8 National Historic Trail; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That such a designation would help ensure the protection
10 and interpretation of the Old Spanish Trail in a more consistent and
11 coordinated manner, would encourage tourists to visit the communities,
12 landscape features and other resources along the trail, would help visitors
13 gain a better understanding of how a journey along the trail might have
14 been more than 100 years ago, and would enhance and promote knowledge
15 concerning the early settlers and explorers who emigrated and led
16 expeditions to the Western United States; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy
18 of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding
19 officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each
20 member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

