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February 6, 2024

Committee on Transportation  
Kansas State Senate  
Kansas State Capitol  
300 S.W. 10th Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66612  
Attn: Sen. Mike Petersen, Chairman

Re: S.B. 410 – Ken Brock Memorial Highway

Members of the Senate Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the U.S. Highway 69 Association, we write to urge your support of Senate Bill 410, which will designate a portion of U.S. Highway 69 in Southeast Kansas as the Ken Brock Memorial Highway.

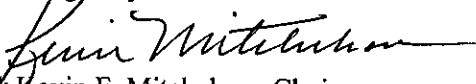
For over 70 years, the U.S. Highway 69 Association has advocated for the completion of U.S. Highway 69 as a four-lane freeway from Johnson County on the north end to Cherokee County on the south end. The vision of our Association has not changed in those 70 years. Our late Executive Director, Gen. Jim AuBuchon, referred to the group as “our hearty band of zealots,” whose sole goal is the completion of U.S. Highway 69 in Southeast Kansas as a safe, modern freeway.

In the thirteen years that Ken Brock served as Chairman of the Association, he organized and led a significant effort of regular meetings with federal, state, and local officials that resulted in the completion of the twenty-two mile stretch of the Highway from south of Fort Scott to the K-47 junction at Franklin, a portion of which we hope will bear his name. His persistent advocacy on behalf of the Highway was non-partisan, as he worked with Governors Graves, Sebelius, Brownback, Colyer, and Kelly and with the Secretaries of Transportation in their respective administrations.

While there remains much to be done, U.S. Highway 69 would not be the freeway that it is today without the leadership and persistent efforts of Ken Brock. Our Association and our community mourn his loss. This designation of the Ken Brock Memorial Highway will be a most fitting tribute to this truly deserving gentleman. Thank you.

Sincerely,

U.S. Highway 69 Association

  
By Kevin F. Mitchelson, Chairman