



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

RESOLUTION
AGNC 22-1

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING 2022 I-70 ALTERNATE ROUTES BILL

Whereas; Interstate Route 70 is the gateway to the Rocky Mountains and a major east-west interstate highway that runs through and connects 10 different states from Baltimore, Maryland to Cove Fort, Utah.

Whereas; Interstate Route 70 connects 7 of the top 22 farm states producing \$81.4 billion of agriculture goods and 21% of the U.S. total of all commodities.

Whereas; Because of natural hazards, Interstate Route 70 through Glenwood experiences significant closures that last greater than 1 week, three or four times a decade.

Whereas; Closures of Interstate Route 70 are extremely costly, with an economic impact estimated at \$1 million per hour.

Whereas; Significant economic harm occurred for local communities during the major I-70 closure in 2021. Wine Country Inn in Palisade lost thousands of dollars each week as 80% of its business comes from the other side of the mountain and the Denver Metro Area.

Whereas; A Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce Poll found that nearly 50% of business respondents in Grand Junction said their business experienced difficulty in getting supplies and suffered harm from this closure.

Whereas; Substantial improvements to existing roads and possible alternative routes should be studied and then funded in a timely manner to ensure the continuation of commerce as well as the safe movement of goods and people in the event that Interstate Route 70 is shut down again in the future.

Whereas; At this time, the local counties directly impacted by these closures and some of the alternatives proposed in this bill prefer for any county route or county road impacted by this bill to remain under county control and not become a state highway.

May it be resolved that AGNC is supportive of the proposed bill "To require the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the significant improvements and potential alternatives necessary to offset extended closures associated with Interstate Route 70, and for other purposes."

DATED this 25th day of May 2022.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS OF
NORTHWEST COLORADO, STATE OF COLORADO

By: Mike Samson
Mike Samson, AGNC Chairman