

COPY

December 29, 1965

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

For the last several years I have recommended the construction of a scenic parkway -- to be known as the Allegheny Parkway -- which would permit tourists to travel through some of the most beautiful countrysides of West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and Kentucky. To my great pleasure, the Recreation Advisory Council, which was formed on a Presidential order, directed the Department of Commerce to conduct a detailed study of the many areas in the country proposed as locations for scenic roads and parkways.

It is my understanding that this study -- which is now ready for presentation to the RAC -- accepted the recommendations of the individual states and Federal agencies which are directly concerned with the location and construction of proposed tourist facilities such as scenic roads and parkways. I am informed that the study took into consideration all pertinent information on the proposals as to population proximity, scenic qualities, the actual and potential uses of each roadway, and the estimated cost per vehicle-mile.

From all indications, this appears to be a study that can be justifiably presented to Congress on the basis of a thorough examination of costs and potential economic benefits. I write today to urge that most careful and favorable consideration be given to the final report, and that its transmittal to

COPY

The President
December 29, 1965
Page 2

Congress be expedited. I am aware -- as I am sure most Americans are -- that you are currently scrutinizing all new government programs in view of the rising costs for the military defenses of the country. However, if I may make a suggestion, I hope that Congress will be permitted to review the Scenic Roads and Parkways Study as early as possible so as to facilitate the authorization of the Allegheny Parkway for preliminary planning activities. I understand that the study will recommend a long-range program which, I believe, should be initiated as rapidly as possible.

If the Allegheny Parkway qualifies for inclusion in the Federal program, I am certain it will be a worthy addition to the country's many tourist attractions.

With kind regards.

~~Sincerely yours,~~

Respectfully
Robert C. Byrd

Robert C. Byrd, U.S.S.

RCB:esl