



U.S. ROUTE 66 Centennial Commission

July 11, 2023

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman Graves:

I am pleased to transmit the attached Interim Report of the Route 66 Centennial Commission.

The Interim Report presents the Route 66 Centennial Commission's initial recommendations for activities that are fitting and proper to celebrate, commemorate, and honor Route 66 on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. The Interim Report also recommends entities in the Federal Government the Route 66 Centennial Commission considers most appropriate to carry out those activities.

The attached Interim Report of the Route 66 Centennial Commission is submitted pursuant to Public Law 116-256, Section 8(a).

I am happy to answer questions or provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rod Reid".

Rod Reid, Chairman
Route 66 Centennial Commission
rod@shephills.com
417-532-7000

Enclosures



U.S. ROUTE 66 Centennial Commission INTERIM REPORT to CONGRESS

July 11, 2023

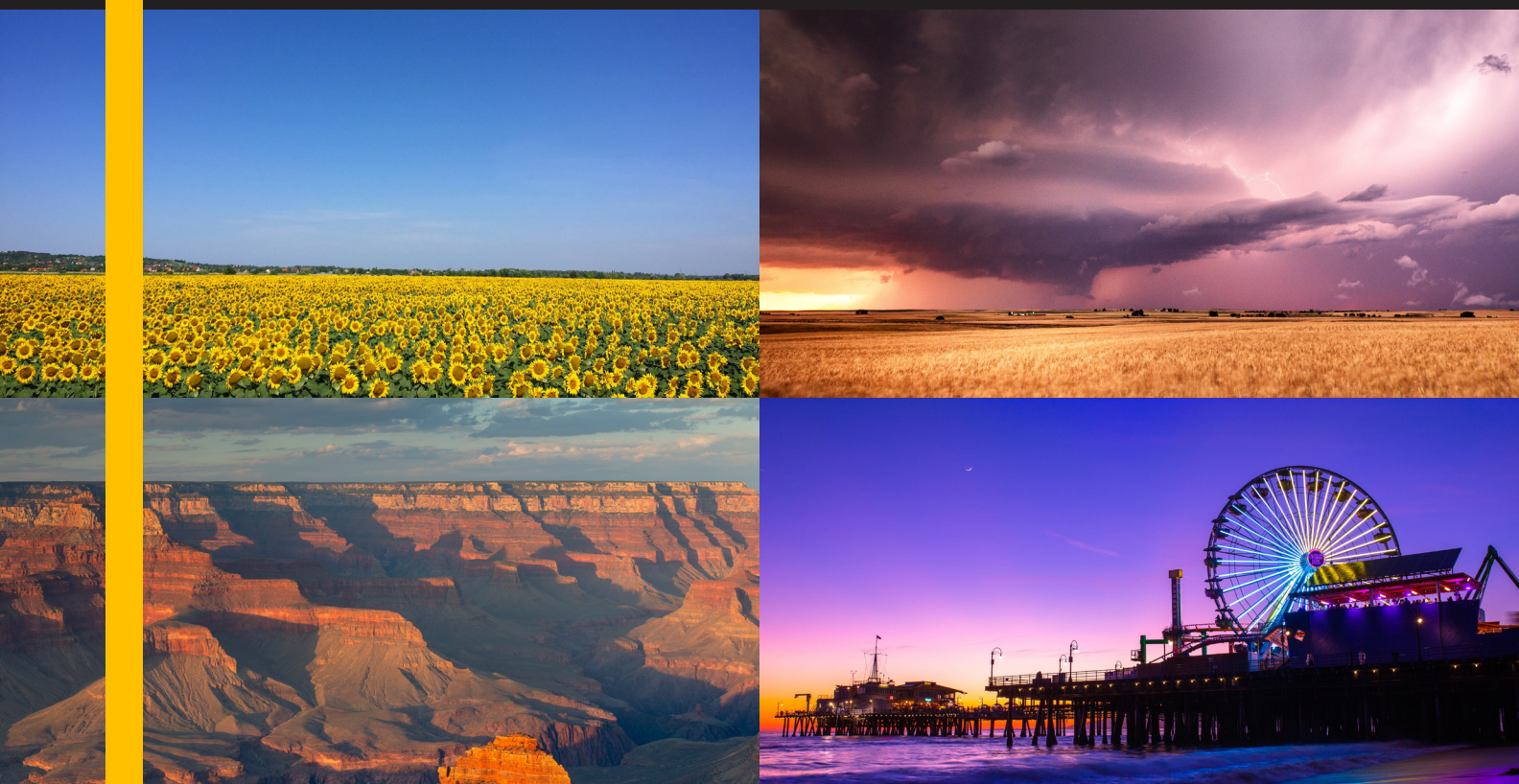
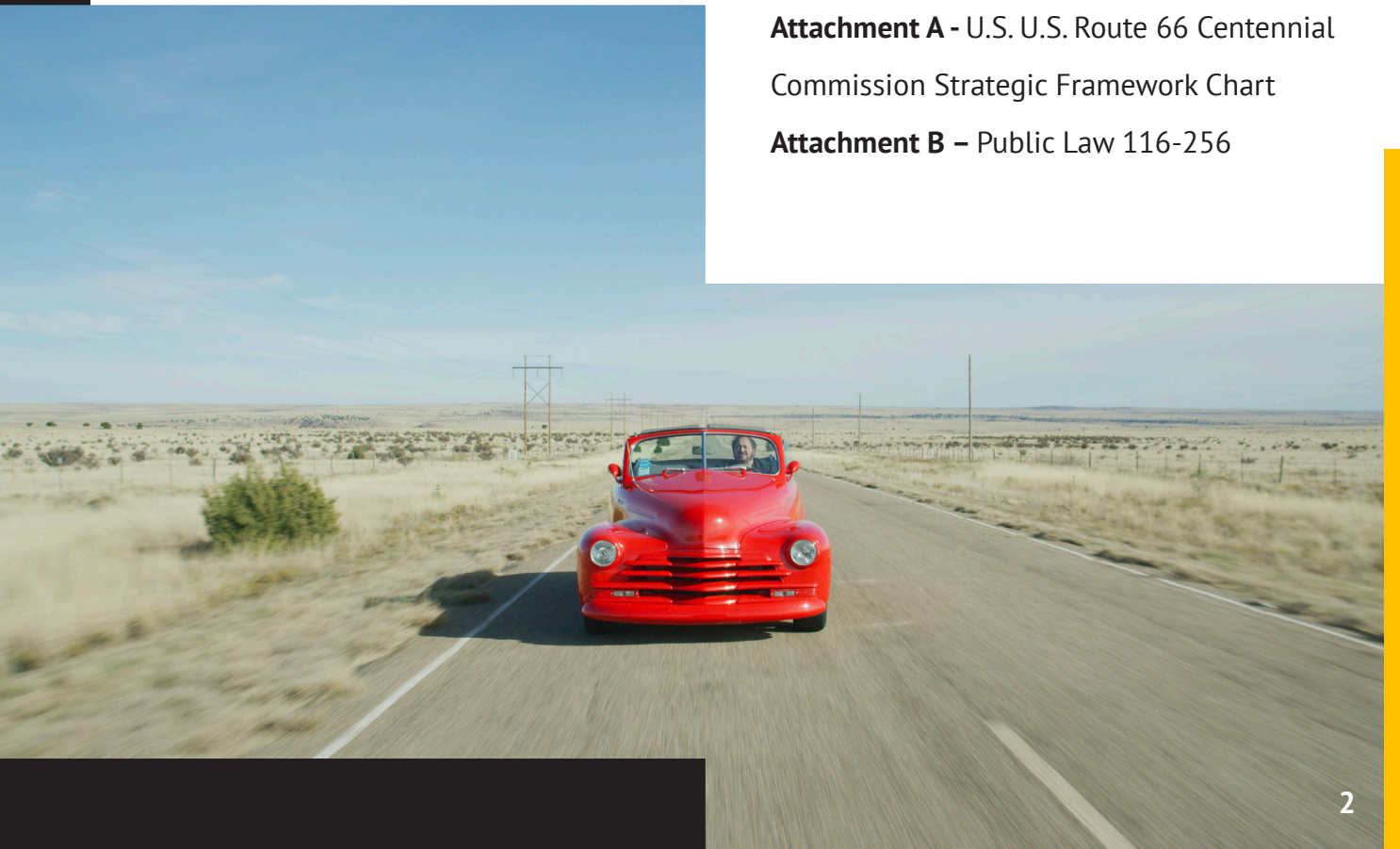


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ATTACHMENTS

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Commission Strategic Framework Chart
- Attachment B** – Public Law 116-256



Message from the Chairman

I am pleased to present to Congress this Interim Report of the U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission.

This first Interim Report presents the Commission's initial recommendations for activities that are fitting and proper to celebrate, commemorate, and honor Route 66 on its centennial anniversary. The first Interim Report also recommends an initial set of entities in the Federal Government the Commission considers most appropriate to carry out its recommended activities.

Looking ahead the Commission will continue to:

- Study, identify, and forward additional recommendations to honor the Centennial of Route 66 through celebrations, commemorations, and other activities.
- Identify additional Federal entities as being most appropriate to carry out its recommendations.

I, and my fellow Commissioners, are excited by the prospects and potential of the upcoming Route 66 Centennial and look forward to ensuring a grand and meaningful series of celebrations, commemorations, and other activities to honor this historic milestone.

Sincerely,

Rod Reid, Chairman



U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission



U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission Legislation

Public Law 116-256 was signed December 23, 2020, establishing the U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission. The Commission is now working to carry out its responsibilities per this enabling legislation.

[See: Attachment B – Public Law 116-256]

U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission

Pursuant to Public Law 116-256, Section 5(a), the U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission includes 15 members appointed by the President, on the recommendations of the Secretary of Transportation (3), the governors of each of the states through which Route 66 runs (8), and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives (4). To date, 12 seats on the Commission have been filled. Current Commission members include:

Commissioner	Organization	Current Title/Position	Appointed by:
Rod Reid (Chair)	Shepherd Hills Factory Outlets	Co-Owner	Governor Parson
Jen Paul Schroer (Vice-Chair)	New Mexico Tourism Department	Cabinet Secretary	Governor Lujan Grisham
Caroline Beteta	Visit California	President & CEO	Governor Newsom
Danielle Blackshear	Federal Highway Administration	Transportation Specialist	US Secretary of Transportation
Mark Falzone	Scenic America	President & CEO	US Secretary of Transportation
Tim Gatz	Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation	Secretary of Transportation	Governor Stitt
Debbie Johnson	Miles Partnership	Sr. Vice President	Governor Ducey (former)
Dale Oglesby	Kansas Route 66 Association	Member	Governor Kelly
Joan Sestak	University of Illinois - Springfield	Director of Community & Government Relations	Senator Schumer
William Thomas	Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership	Road Ahead Chair	House Minority Leader McCarthy (at the time)
Michael Wallis	Route 66 Alliance	Co-founder, Route 66 Alliance	House Speaker Nancy Peolsi (former)
Richard Ware	Amarillo National Bank	Chairman	Governor Abbott

Two Commission seats await final appointment by the President. These include a recommendation from Senate Minority Leader McConnell and a recommendation from Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker.

One Commission seat awaits an initial recommendation by the Secretary of Transportation and then final appointment by the President.

*Commissioners from left: Danielle Blackshear, Caroline Beteta, Debbie Johnson, Dale Oglesby, Jen Paul Schroer (Vice-Chair), Rod Reid (Chair), Mark Falzone, William Thomas, Richard Ware...
Not pictured – Tim Gatz, Joan Sestak, Michael Wallis*



U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission Organization

The U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission held its first meeting virtually on February 21, 2023. Rod Reid, Co-Owner of Shepherd Hills Factory Outlets in Missouri, was elected Commission Chair and Jen Paul Schroer, Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Tourism Department, was elected Commission Vice Chair. The Commission held its second meeting in Chicago on May 2, 2023, where it finalized a strategic framework and agreed to implement a standard process across the eight Route 66 states for conducting the Commission's work per its enabling legislation.

[See: Attachment A – U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission Strategic Framework Chart]

U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission Recommendations

Initial Activities

Pursuant to Public Law 116-256, Section 4, the U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission is working to identify and recommend activities that may be carried out by the Federal Government that are fitting and proper to honor Route 66 on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. The Commission is using a set of seven strategic principles to identify activities, including:

- Celebrate & Honor
- Preserve, Protect & Enhance
- Generate Tourism Demand
- Tourism Development
- Economic Development
- National Collaboration
- Research & Education

To determine which identified activities to recommend, the Commission is guided by four additional strategic principles, including:

- Sustainability
- Collaborative & Transparent Process
- Rubric with Dynamic Scoring
- State Investment Parity

Based on these principles, the U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission recommends the following initial set of activities as being fitting and proper to honor Route 66 on the occasion of its centennial anniversary:

- A Route 66 Centennial Stamp
- A Route 66 Centennial Stamp Series Featuring Each of the 8 Route 66 States
- A Route 66 Centennial Commemorative Coin
- The Route 66 Alternative Fuels Corridor Initiative
- A Route 66 Centennial Global Marketing Campaign featuring Coordinated featuring the eight Route 66 States
- Designating Route 66 a National Historic Trail

U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission Recommended Federal Entities

Initial Federal Entities

Pursuant to Public Law 116-256, Section 4, the U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission is working to identify entities in the Federal Government that it considers most appropriate to carry out the activities the Commission recommends. Accordingly, the Commission recommends the following Federal Government entities as most appropriate to carry out the initial set of recommended activities noted above:

Activity	Federal Entity
A Route 66 Centennial Stamp	The United States Postal Service
A Route 66 Centennial Stamp Series Featuring Each of the 8 Route 66 States	The United States Postal Service
A Route 66 Centennial Commemorative Coin	The United States Mint – U.S. Department of the Treasury
The Route 66 Alternative Fuels Corridor Initiative	Joint Office of Energy and Transportation – U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Department of Transportation
A Route 66 Centennial Global Marketing Campaign featuring the eight Route 66 States	Brand USA & the National Travel and Tourism Office – U.S. Department of Commerce
Designating Route 66 as a National Historic Trail	National Park Service

Conclusions

As it continues its work, the U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission will identify and recommend additional activities that may be carried out by the Federal Government that are fitting and proper to honor Route 66 on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.

The U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission will also continue to identify additional entities in the Federal Government that it considers most appropriate to carry out recommended activities.

The U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission looks forward to fulfilling its responsibilities as outlined in its enabling legislation, Public Law 116-256, and will provide additional reports as it does so.



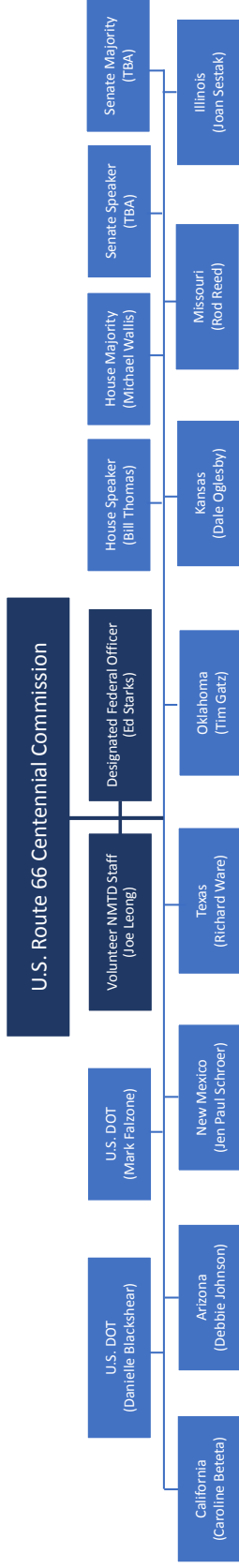


ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission

Strategic Framework Chart

Attachment B – Public Law 116-256



Commission Final Deliverable: Submit a report to Congress that includes **recommended activities that **appropriately honors** the Mother Road of the United States. (Due no later than two years after all Commission members are appointed.)**

Charge #1: **Identify activities that may be carried out by the Federal Government.**



Charge #2: **Recommend the activities that should be carried out and the federal entities that will execute the plan.**



Systematically elevate state recommendations for optimum collaboration with the U.S. Route 66 Commission

Charge #1: Mother Road Consortium - MOU that outlines a standard process across 8 states to **identify and propose activities to the U.S. Route 66 Commission**



Charge #2: Develop a standardized process for the U.S. Route 66 Commission to **evaluate and prioritize activities that are national and cross multiple states.**



The WHAT

The HOW

Strategic Principles

Strategic Principles

State Coordination Groups

National Workgroups

PUBLIC LAW 116-256—DEC. 23, 2020

ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

Public Law 116–256
116th Congress

An Act

Dec. 23, 2020

[S. 1014]

Route 66
Centennial
Commission Act.
36 USC 101 note
prec.

To establish the Route 66 Centennial Commission, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Route 66 Centennial Commission Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Route 66 was the first all-weather highway in the United States connecting the Midwest to California, and has played a major role in the history of the United States;

(2) Route 66 has become a symbol of the heritage of travel and the legacy of seeking a better life shared by the people of the United States, and has been enshrined in the popular culture of the United States; and

(3) the year 2026 will be the centennial anniversary of Route 66, and a commission should be established to study and recommend in a report to Congress activities that are fitting and proper to celebrate that anniversary in a manner that appropriately honors the Mother Road of the United States.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established a commission to be known as the “Route 66 Centennial Commission” (referred to in this Act as the “Commission”).

SEC. 4. DUTIES.

The Commission shall—

(1) study activities that may be carried out by the Federal Government to determine whether the activities are fitting and proper to honor Route 66 on the occasion of the centennial anniversary of Route 66, including activities such as—

(A) the issuance of commemorative coins, medals, certificates of recognition, and postage stamps;

(B) ceremonies and celebrations commemorating specific events; and

(C) the production, publication, and distribution of books, pamphlets, films, electronic publications, and other educational materials; and

(2) recommend to Congress—

Determination.

Recommendations.

(A) the activities that the Commission considers most fitting and proper to honor Route 66 on the occasion described in paragraph (1); and

(B) 1 or more entities in the Federal Government that the Commission considers most appropriate to carry out those activities.

SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be composed of 15 members appointed as follows:

(1) 3 members, each of whom shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Secretary of Transportation.

(2) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Governor of Illinois.

(3) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Governor of Missouri.

(4) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Governor of Kansas.

(5) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Governor of Oklahoma.

(6) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Governor of Texas.

(7) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Governor of New Mexico.

(8) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Governor of Arizona.

(9) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Governor of California.

(10) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(11) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(12) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Majority Leader of the Senate.

(13) 1 member, who shall be an eligible individual described in subsection (b), appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the Senate.

(b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—An eligible individual referred to in subsection (a) is an individual with—

(1) a demonstrated dedication to educating others about the importance of historical figures and events; and

(2) substantial knowledge and appreciation of Route 66.

(c) **TIME OF APPOINTMENT.**—Each initial appointment of a member of the Commission shall be made before the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) **TERMS.**—Each member shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(e) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy in the Commission shall not affect the powers of the Commission but shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(f) **BASIC PAY.**—Members shall serve on the Commission without pay.

(g) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—Each member shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(h) **QUORUM.**—7 members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hearings.

(i) **CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.**—The Commission shall select a Chair and Vice Chair from among the members of the Commission.

(j) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chair.

SEC. 6. DIRECTOR AND STAFF.

(a) **DIRECTOR.**—The Commission may appoint and fix the pay of a Director and such additional personnel as the Commission considers to be appropriate.

(b) **APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.**—

(1) **DIRECTOR.**—The Director of the Commission shall—

(A) be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service; and

(B) be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the Director may not exceed the rate payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of that title.

(2) **STAFF.**—The staff of the Commission shall—

(A) be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service; and

(B) be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

(c) **SOURCE OF COMPENSATION.**—In accordance with section 10—

(1) no Federal funds may be expended to compensate a Director or staff member of the Commission under this section; and

(2) any compensation paid to a Director or any staff of the Commission appointed under this section shall be derived solely from donated funds.

SEC. 7. POWERS.

(a) **HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.**—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers to be appropriate to carry out this Act.

(b) **POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.**—Any member or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the Commission, take any action that the Commission is authorized to take under this Act.

(c) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other Federal departments and agencies.

(d) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.**—

Reimbursement.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—On the request of the Commission, the Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative support services necessary for the Commission to carry out this Act.

(2) **DETAILEES.**—

(A) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—At the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency or department may detail to the Commission, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, any employee of the agency or department.

(ii) **CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.**—The detail of an employee under clause (i) shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(iii) **NO ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION.**—A Federal employee who is detailed to the Commission under this subparagraph may not receive any additional pay, allowances, benefits, or other compensation by reason of the detail of the employee to the Commission or any services performed by the employee for the Commission.

(B) **STATE EMPLOYEES.**—The Commission may—

(i) accept the services of personnel detailed from a State; and

(ii) reimburse the State for the services of the detailed personnel.

(e) **VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.**—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use such voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines to be necessary.

(f) **GIFTS.**—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts, grants, bequests, or devises of money, services, or property from any public or private source for the purpose of covering the costs incurred by the Commission in carrying out this Act.

SEC. 8. REPORTS.

(a) **INTERIM REPORTS.**—The Commission may submit to Congress such interim reports as the Commission considers to be appropriate.

(b) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date on which all members of the Commission are appointed, the Commission shall submit to Congress a final report containing—

(1) a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Commission;

(2) the recommendations of the Commission; and

(3) any other information that the Commission considers to be appropriate.

Recommendations.

SEC. 9. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall terminate on December 31, 2026.

SEC. 10. EXPENDITURES OF COMMISSION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—All expenditures of the Commission, including any reimbursement required under this Act, shall be made solely from donated funds.

(b) **NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act.

Approved December 23, 2020.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 1014:

SENATE REPORTS: No. 116-62 (Comm. on Environment and Public Works).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 166 (2020):

Aug. 10, considered and passed Senate.

Dec. 8, considered and passed House.

DAILY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS (2020):

Dec. 23, Presidential statement.

