

X.N. Steeves.

TOWN OF WILLIAMS

"GATEWAY TO THE GRAND CANYON"

WILLIAMS, ARIZONA

March 20th, 1924.

Hon. Carl Hayden,
M.C. for Arizona,
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Congressman.-

Your letter, with enclosures of Congressional Record, of date March 11, Inst., duly at hand, and for which I thank you very much.

We have had, in this section of the State, during all of the month of February, and the first half of March, exceptionally fine weather-no rains, no snow; but during the last week we have had over one foot of snow. This last has now rendered the road from Maine to the Canyon, wholly impassable for autos, and it will now so remain for the next, at least three months; this during the time that the snow remains upon the road, and then when it melts off, and makes the said road muddy, as it always does. Hence, this Maine-Grand Canyon road, is never an all round Winter and Summer road.

This because said road after it leaves the Old Trails Road, and goes to the Canyon, passes over an altitude of nearly EIGHT THOUSAND feet, at places; and then when it goes to a lower altitude, it passes over Spring Valley Flat, which is always a very muddy, boggy strip of several miles; and Autos frequently in the past have mired down, and the occupants required to foot it for many miles, in order to get pulled out-this has been common-there being practically no settlement near, and never will be, owing to the character of the country.

The present road leading from Williams to the Canyon, is now, and it has been for the past, an all round Winter and Summer road, this owing to its being very much lower altitude, and passing over for its entire length, a soil that is gravelly, and does not get so muddy; and the snows do not interfere.

Besides this, and such is a great advantage to the travelling public, it runs its entire length quite close to the G. C. Ry., and in case of any accident, which sometimes happens, the traveller can always, readily get in communication with the outside world, and have such assistance as he requires; and there is water to be had all of the way; which is not the case with the Maine road. Besides, there are many settlements along the road, which are continually increasing.

There is also, some talk of a road from the Canyon to Ashfork; but this road is very much longer, with no settlement along it, and very little, if any water to be had on the way. It is many miles away from any kind of communication, and tourists, who have broken on the way, have had to walk for forty miles to get relief of any kind, and for such reasons, it does look to be very impracticable.

There is a fast growing travel over the roads leading to the Canyon, and it will continue to increase: Hence, it is very necessary that a road, if to be constructed at all, should be placed in the lo-

catin that will for all time be the most desirable, convenient for travel, and least expensive to construct and maintain. It is not a matter of favoring any one locality; but, a matter that concerns the travelling public. It is for this reason, that this Chamber of Commerce, simply asks that in the locating of the road, it be done by a competent, and wholly impartial Govt Engineer. This should be done.

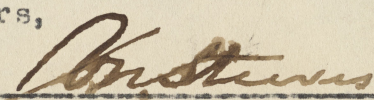
I enclose herewith, a map, showing the courses, etc., of the different roads, which may be of interest to yourself. You will readily see, that the Williams-G.C. road, is the one most directly, and upon the shortest line by far, leading from the South country of this our State to the Canyon. It is only a question of time, when there will be much travel from Phoenix, and the South to the Canyon, and via the Williams, G.C. Road. By this road, an autoist can easily leave Phoenix early in the morning, and reach the Canyon, and return to Phoenix in one day. He cannot do it by any other road. I talked these road matters over with several very influential people in the Southern part of this State, and I found that not a person living there, had any idea of these conditions; and every one I talked with said the Williams G.C. Road, was just the road they wanted. To go from Phoenix, out from Prescott, and away around the circle East, and reach Flagstaff, by this course, makes it many, many, miles further, and in so much inconvenient for Southern travel. The map enclosed shows how these now run, and there is little chance of any change.

There is now already constructed, and being used, a first class road leading from Prescott to a point in the Old Trails Road, that is about one and one half miles East of Ashfork, and at this junction, a first class Highway, to Williams, built by the State. This now makes a fine road from Prescott to Williams, and with a road to the Canyon, makes the shortest and best road obtainable. It is waste of time and travel, for a person coming from Phoenix, to be compelled to go on 18 miles to Maine, and then diagonally retrace his travel to what is now the said Williams road, as he would have to do, if the Maine road is the adopted one.

I trust that this letter will not bore you, but that you may give this matter your careful consideration, and if possible have this proposed highway constructed, not for the benefit or favor of any one point, but for the best interests of the travelling public, and in order to have such done, some disinterested Govt Engineer, who is competent, and who will give all these matters careful consideration should establish the road. I am pleased to see that the action of Congress has not applied the \$100,000.00 to any particular location.

Believing that you will give this matter impartial consideration, I beg to remain,

Most Respectfully, Yours,


President of Chamber of Commerce.