

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 25

Introduced by Assembly Member Lieber
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Beall, Caballero, Coto, Laird,
Ruskin, and Torrico)
(Coauthors: Senators Alquist, Maldonado, and Simitian)

February 20, 2007

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 25—Relative to the Norman Y. Mineta Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 25, as introduced, Lieber. Norman Y. Mineta Highway.

This measure would designate State Highway Route 85, except for a specified segment, in Santa Clara County as the Norman Y. Mineta Highway. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this designation and, upon receiving donations from appropriate nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Norman Y. Mineta was born on November 12,
- 2 1931, in San Jose, California; and
- 3 WHEREAS, During World War II, Mr. Mineta and his family
- 4 were among the 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry detained
- 5 in internment camps; and
- 6 WHEREAS, In 1953, Mr. Mineta graduated from the University
- 7 of California, Berkeley's Walter A. Haas School of Business with
- 8 a degree in Business Administration; and

1 WHEREAS, Thereafter, Mr. Mineta joined the United States
2 Army and served as an intelligence officer in Korea and Japan;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, From 1967 to 1971, Mr. Mineta served as a member
5 of the San Jose City Council; and

6 WHEREAS, From 1971 to 1974, Mr. Mineta served as Mayor
7 of San Jose, thereby becoming the first Asian-American mayor of
8 a major United States city; and

9 WHEREAS, From 1975 to 1995, Mr. Mineta represented the
10 Silicon Valley area as a Member of the United States House of
11 Representatives; and

12 WHEREAS, During his career in Congress, Mr. Mineta's
13 legislative and policy agenda was wide and varied, including major
14 projects in the areas of economic development, science and
15 technology policy, trade, transportation, the environment,
16 intelligence, the budget, and civil rights; and

17 WHEREAS, As a Member of Congress, Mr. Mineta cofounded
18 the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and served as
19 its first chair; and

20 WHEREAS, As a Member of Congress, Mr. Mineta also chaired
21 the House Public Works and Transportation Committee from 1992
22 to 1994, chaired that committee's aviation subcommittee from
23 1981 to 1988, and chaired its Surface Transportation Subcommittee
24 from 1989 to 1991; and

25 WHEREAS, As a Member of Congress, Mr. Mineta was also
26 a key author of the landmark Intermodal Surface Transportation
27 Efficiency Act of 1991, which shifted decisions concerning
28 highway and mass transit planning to state and local governments
29 and led to major upsurges in mass transit ridership and more
30 environmentally friendly transportation projects; and

31 WHEREAS, As a Member of Congress, Mr. Mineta was also
32 the driving force behind the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of
33 1988, which officially apologized for and redressed the injustices
34 endured by Japanese Americans during World War II; and

35 WHEREAS, In 1995, George Washington University awarded
36 Mr. Mineta the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Medal
37 for his contributions to the field of civil rights; and

38 WHEREAS, After leaving Congress, Mr. Mineta chaired the
39 National Civil Aviation Review Commission, which in 1997 issued
40 recommendations on reducing traffic congestion and the aviation

1 accident rate, many of which were adopted by the Clinton
2 administration; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2000, President Clinton appointed Mr. Mineta
4 United States Secretary of Commerce, making Mr. Mineta the first
5 Asian American to hold a post in the Presidential Cabinet; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2001, President George W. Bush appointed Mr.
7 Mineta United States Secretary of Transportation, making Mr.
8 Mineta the only Democrat to serve in George W. Bush's Cabinet
9 and the first Cabinet member to switch directly from a Democratic
10 to a Republican Cabinet; and

11 WHEREAS, During Mr. Mineta's first four years as Secretary
12 of Transportation, the United States saw the lowest vehicle fatality
13 rate ever recorded, the highest safety belt usage rate ever recorded,
14 and the lowest rail fatality level ever recorded; and

15 WHEREAS, As Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Mineta
16 oversaw the safest three-year period in aviation history and was
17 instrumental in persuading every state in the country to set a
18 maximum blood alcohol content level for automobile drivers at
19 0.08 percent, a level that has proved to be effective in preventing
20 automobile crashes and improving automobile safety; and

21 WHEREAS, As Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Mineta also
22 oversaw the United States Coast Guard's response to the terrorist
23 attacks of September 11, 2001, including expanding the number
24 and mission of Coast Guard Port Security Units and developing
25 the Sea Marshal Program and Maritime Safety and Security Teams;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, As Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Mineta also
28 guided the creation of the Transportation Security Administration,
29 an agency of more than 60,000 employees charged with protecting
30 Americans as they travel across the United States; and

31 WHEREAS, In 2003, Mr. Mineta received the Panetta Institute's
32 Jefferson-Lincoln Award for his bipartisan leadership in addressing
33 the challenges faced by the United States and was selected by the
34 Council of Excellence in Government to receive the Elliot L.
35 Richardson Prize for Excellence and Integrity in Public Service;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, On June 23, 2006, Mr. Mineta announced his
38 resignation as United States Secretary of Transportation, effective
39 July 7, 2006, making him the longest-serving Secretary of

1 Transportation in the history of the Department of Transportation;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, In recognition of Mr. Mineta's long career in public
4 service and his contributions to the transportation field, it would
5 be a fitting tribute to designate State Highway Route 85 in Santa
6 Clara County as the Norman Y. Mineta Highway; now, therefore,
7 be it

8 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
9 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates State
10 Highway Route 85, except the segment between Prospect Road
11 and Quito Road, in Santa Clara County as the "Norman Y. Mineta
12 Highway"; and be it further

13 *Resolved,* That the Department of Transportation is requested
14 to determine the cost of erecting the appropriate signs, consistent
15 with the signing requirements for the state highway system,
16 showing this special designation, and, upon receiving donations
17 from nonstate sources covering the cost, to erect those signs; and
18 be it further

19 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
20 of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
21 author for appropriate distribution.