



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
MIKE BEEBE  
GOVERNOR

September 27, 2011

Dear Fellow Arkansans:

Throughout my administration, I have been interested in the completion of Interstate 49 that runs through Arkansas. Since taking office in January of 2007, I have dedicated state and federal funds for I-49 from all available funding sources.

I write this letter to introduce you to the **I-49 International Coalition**, a group of more than 100 businesses, associations, public entities, and individuals in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Missouri. Led by its president, Curt Green, and its executive director, Gard Wayt, this group is working collectively across county and state lines to complete the unfinished segments of Interstate 49 between New Orleans and Kansas City, at which point the highway joins with Interstate 29 from Kansas City to Winnipeg, Canada. Once complete, I-49 will intersect nine east-west interstates and connect mid-America to ports in New Orleans, South Louisiana, and Houston, with access to Central/South America and the world at large.

My administration is working with the I-49 International Coalition to continue the progress that has been made in funding and constructing I-49. I support the Coalition's goal to create a Regional Mobility District to speed up completion of this vital highway, which has been defined by the federal government as a High Priority Corridor of national significance. I also plan to meet with the governors of Louisiana and Missouri to discuss becoming partners in this effort.

Thank you for your continued support to achieve completion of I-49 through Arkansas. This project will enhance tourism, trade, and economic development throughout the region, and improve safety and hurricane evacuation. I look forward to working with you and the Coalition on this important endeavor.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Beebe".

Mike Beebe

MB:jb