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I write this letter as a concerned citizen, an independent health care provider, and a candidate for Commissioner District Two in Marshall County.

In our county/region we are blessed to have transportation access by river, rail, and two major interstates. What we are lacking is an interstate business spur to connect our economic development projects to the interstate system.

When conducting an internet search for the benefits of an interstate spur upon local economic development, the search returns over ten million results. Creating a meta search to narrow it down to a regional basis, we can determine the importance of such a spur. Throughout the United States each region is either clamoring for a new interstate or a spur to or from an existing interstate.

In recent history KY has spurred I-65 (I-165) from Bowling Green to Owensboro. I-169 as a spur from I24 near Ft. Campbell KY connecting I-69 near Madisonville KY. In 2020, congressional efforts are underway to convert the Louie B. Nunn Cumberland Parkway into a federal spur of Interstate-65. As a side note there is only one spur/loop off the entire route of I 24 and it's located in Paducah.

I am asking you the western Kentucky caucus of our general assembly to help our region in far western KY by creating not a spur as it would be cost-prohibitive but to designate this chosen route as a business spur and/or a business loop. This spur would intersect with I-69 in Marshall County at Bus-641 and 1-69, extending south on Bus-641 to the intersection of KY HWY 80 in Calloway County. In the perfect world, the desire would be for this spur to continue into a loop using the pre-existing KY Hwy 80 in Calloway County to I-69/Hwy 80 in Graves County.

Currently, Kentucky is in the process of improvements to US Hwy 641 that eventually as I understand it will be a divided highway from I-69 in Ky to I-40 south of Camden TN. In addition to the 641 projects, it is my hope that we can create more economic development for far western KY and increase the tax revenues for our commonwealth. It is my belief we can do this easily through state legislation as presumably no further improvements would be needed on this pre-existing route.

However, if federal legislation is required I then respectfully ask that our caucus work with our federal elected officials to bring this low cost yet potential economic boon to the Jackson Purchase Area.

Sincerely

Michael Gordon

Candidate for Commissioner

Second District

Marshall County