



CHAUTAUQUA CO. FARM BUREAU ASSOCIATION
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JANUARY 26, 2016

To: House and Senate Transportation Committees

Re: Highway 99 in Chautauqua County

At the November 20th, 2013 meeting, the Farm Bureau Board of Directors resolved to request that you help address what is considered here, a public safety issue in regards to the safety of the motoring public to K-99 in Chautauqua County, and they have been working towards that goal since. The largest safety issue is the lack of a safe shoulder on either side of the highway in the event the driver gets a tire off or has mechanical issues and needs to leave the travel portion of the highway. As you are aware, Highway 99 was recently overlaid and has a very good surface, however, the overlay only built up a road surface that was already dangerously high compared to the shoulder and ditch area. There have been a number of accidents in the past several months where the low shoulder, or no shoulder in some cases, was a key factor in the accident. Some of these accidents occurred where a vehicle has dropped a wheel off the roadway and then lost control when trying to reenter the roadway or have just simply rolled over into the ditch.

As you are probably aware this highway is used by not only Chautauqua County residents, but many travelers including a lot of truckers going through the county to other destinations. This highway is also used by several school districts to reach activity sites as well as every day routes for our local USD #286 Sedan School system. For much of the length of the K-99 Highway, there is no suitable place to pull off the roadway without becoming a statistic!

The off road conditions of this highway is quite likely a factor in stopping any future economic growth that we so desperately need in Chautauqua County.

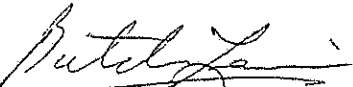
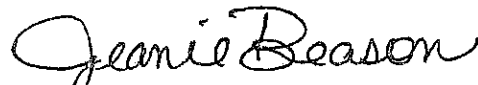
We realize that projects of this magnitude require a great deal of resources, time, and planning; however, both as representatives of our organization and also as tax payers, we are encouraging you to look at the safety issues as well as future economic benefits; not only for our county but for every county that is affected by the current safety issues that have been mentioned.

We ask that you find a suitable remedy as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau Board of Directors


Butch Lewis, President
Robyn Sutton, Vice President
Vicky Hadley, Sec/Treasurer
Jeanie Beason, Women's Chair