

Rozelle Webb
Liberal Chamber of Commerce, CEO

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you today.

Jack Taylor and Max Zimmerman both stand out for the many years of time and energy, lobbying and promoting they gave to improving 54 Highway.

They spearheaded the efforts of S.P.I.R.I.T. which is the Southwest Passage Initiative for Regional and Interstate Transportation for 25-30 years, right up until the days each of them passed away—Max in May of 2016 and Jack in January of 2019.

Their goal was to improve 54 Highway all the way to El Paso, Texas not only for the safety of those traveling on Highway 54, but also to increase the economic impact that a four-lane highway brings to communities along the 54 route.

Jack and Max were instrumental in getting 4 miles of 4-lanes and an overpass completed on Highway 54 just west of Liberal in August, 2006. Jack was relentless in his efforts to get that project approved and completed. So much so, that at the Grand Opening Ceremony Senator Jerry Moran, declared to the crowd, with tongue-in-cheek, “I am really glad to see this project completed because Jack Taylor has been like gum on my shoe.”

Jack and Max kept their dream alive through countless hours of promoting and fighting for their cause. It would be very fitting that we name the bridges that cross the Cimarron River on Highway 54, the Jack Taylor Memorial Bridge and the Max Zimmerman Memorial Bridge.

Thank you for considering our request on House Bill 2247.