

Date of Hearing: August 10, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

SCR 77 (Glazer) – As Amended January 22, 2020

SENATE VOTE: 39-0

SUBJECT: Representative Ellen O’Kane Tauscher Memorial Bore

SUMMARY: Renames the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel as the “Representative Ellen O’Kane Tauscher Memorial Bore.” Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Recounts the life of Representative Ellen O’Kane Tauscher.
- 2) Renames the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel as the “Representative Ellen O’Kane Tauscher Memorial Bore.”
- 3) Requests that the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) determine the costs of erecting the appropriate signs consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway and tunnel system, showing the special designation, and upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the costs, erect the signs.

EXISTING LAW: Assigns Caltrans the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways and tunnels, including the installation and maintenance of highway and tunnel signs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown, but the resolution requests that Caltrans only erect the appropriate signage upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the cost.

COMMENTS:

Representative Ellen O’Kane Tauscher was a dedicated public servant who represented the 10th Congressional District from 1997-2009. During the entirety of her term, Representative Tauscher served on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. She played a key role in securing over \$2 billion for regional transportation projects in California, including the State Highway 24 Caldecott Tunnel, an essential project for improving congestion from Contra Costa County to Alameda and San Francisco Counties. According to supporters of the resolution, “Each time a driver goes through the tunnel, they will be reminded of the lasting impact of her work in easing the commute of Contra Costa residents and the Bay Area.”

Representative Tauscher was born in Newark, New Jersey on November 15, 1951 as the daughter of a grocery store owner. She earned a degree in early childhood education from Seton Hall University in 1974 and in her mid-20s, became one of the first women to hold a seat on the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1996, Representative Tauscher ran for Congressional office, her first time running for any elected office, and won. Representative Tauscher would go on to be reelected for a total of seven terms in Congress before she retired from her seat in 2009.

During her time as a Congresswoman, Representative Tauscher sat on the National Security (later renamed, Armed Services) Committee; the Science, Space, and Technology Committee; and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. She secured nearly \$200 million in funding for Livermore's National Ignition Facility which would host the world's largest super-laser. From her seat on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, she steered federal funding to improve the San Francisco Bay Area's badly strained transportation systems, including \$33 million for projects in her district.

In 2009, Representative Tauscher was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the United States Senate to the position of Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, before transitioning to the role of Special Envoy for Strategic Stability and Missile Defense. Representative Tauscher chaired Governor Edmund Brown's military council, chaired the Board of Governors for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory, chaired the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety in the aftermath of a highly fatal workplace catastrophe in the country, and served on the Board of Regents for the University of California.

According to the author, "Of note, the fourth bore on State Route 24 at the Caldecott Tunnel – essential to improving the congestion from Contra Costa to Alameda and San Francisco Counties – largely became a reality because of Rep. Tauscher's tenacity and effective leadership in Washington that secured the federal funding necessary to begin and complete the project. Renaming the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel to the Representative Ellen O'Kane Tauscher Memorial Bore is a fitting way to honor Congresswoman Tauscher for her service to the 10th Congressional District, the residents of California, and all Americans."

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Contra Costa County
East Bay Municipal Utility District

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Chanel Matney / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093