

VETO MESSAGE RELATING TO FUNDS AUTHORIZED FOR  
ROADS THROUGH PUBLIC AND INDIAN LANDS

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MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

RETURNING WITHOUT APPROVAL THE BILL (S. 3674) ENTITLED  
"AN ACT TO AMEND THE ACT ENTITLED 'AN ACT TO PROVIDE  
THAT THE UNITED STATES SHALL AID THE STATES IN THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF RURAL POST ROADS, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES,' APPROVED JULY 11, 1916, AS AMENDED AND SUP-  
PLEMENTED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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May 3 (calendar day, May 18), 1928.—Read; ordered to lie on the table and to  
be printed

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*To the Senate:*

There is returned herewith, without my approval, S. 3674, a bill to amend the act entitled "An act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in the construction of rural post roads, and for other purposes," approved July 11, 1916, as amended and supplemented, and for other purposes.

The bill would authorize appropriations of \$3,500,000 each for the fiscal years 1929, 1930, and 1931 to be allocated to States having more than 5 per cent of their area in unappropriated or unreserved public lands, nontaxable Indian lands or other Federal reservations, for the construction, by the Bureau of Public Roads, of the main roads through such lands.

From 1917 to 1929, inclusive, Federal appropriations aggregating \$840,000,000 have been authorized for cooperative construction of rural post roads and appropriations aggregating \$733,200,000 have been made to meet the requirements as they have developed. From 1922 to 1929, inclusive, Federal appropriations aggregating \$58,000,000 have been authorized for forest development roads and forest highways and appropriations thereunder aggregating \$54,055,000 have been made. From 1925 to 1929, inclusive, \$10,000,000 have been appropriated for the construction of roads in national parks.

While expenditures from appropriations for cooperative construction of rural post roads are contingent upon equal contributions by State or local agencies, no such requirement obtains with reference to appropriations for roads in national forests and national parks since such roads are required for the protection, administration, utilization, or development of Federal resources. The bill would provide for entire construction from Federal funds of main roads through unappropriated or unreserved public lands and nontaxable Indian lands. Such expenditures could not be justified on the basis of protection or development of Federal resources and would constitute a radical departure from the established policy of Federal aid on a cooperative basis in road construction.

Having in mind the increasing ability of the States to finance road construction due to the general adoption of the gasoline tax and the increase in revenue from this source which would accrue to States from roads constructed through public and Indian lands therein, I see no reason why the States should be relieved from their contribution toward the construction of these roads as required by existing law. I am constrained therefore to return this bill without my approval.

CALVIN COOLIDGE.

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
May 18, 1928.

[S. 2674. Seventieth Congress of the United States of America; at the first session, begun and held at the city of Washington on Monday, the fifth day of December, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven.]

An act to amend the act entitled "An act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in the construction of rural post roads, and for other purposes," approved July 11, 1916, as amended and supplemented, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of the act entitled "An act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in the construction of rural post roads, and for other purposes," approved July 11, 1916, and all acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated for the construction, by the Bureau of Public Roads, of the main roads through unappropriated or unreserved public lands, nontaxable Indian lands, or other Federal reservations—

The sum of \$3,500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1929.

The sum of \$3,500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1930.

The sum of \$3,500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1931: *Provided*, That the sums hereby authorized shall be allocated to the States having more than 5 per centum of their area in lands hereinabove referred to, and said sums shall be apportioned among said States in the proportion that said lands in each of said States is to the total area of said lands in the States eligible under the provisions of this act.

SEC. 2. All acts or parts of acts in any way inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed, and this act shall take effect on its passage.