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San Antonio, May 25, 1925.

Miss Florence Sterling,  
Woman's Viewpoint,  
Houston, Texas.

Dear Miss Sterling,-

I enclose information relative to the Old Spanish Trail and the action of the Highway Department in officially designating the Old Spanish Trail from Orange, thru Houston, San Antonio, Del Rio, to El Paso and New Mexico as the "Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway." The OST organization of course will not submit to this, but it will be better of course if this action is corrected before things are said that will hurt.

I do not need to repeat that for ten years OST men and women have been building this work; they have expended over \$100,000 and time beyond calculation. It appears a little group of women, who have given neither time nor money to the development of the highway and probably never will, went before the Highway Commission and that body yielded to their flimsy arguments. These women dishonor the name of Jefferson Davis when they attempt to seize the work of others, and a work so well established; they also dishonor womanhood for women are not building themselves into the recognition they are attaining by piracy of this sort but by the works they themselves are doing. The minute any attempt is made to re-mark this highway, and thus destroy the Old Spanish Trail as a national transcontinental trunkline, I will personally lead a fight that will be without reserve.

Attempts to confer some local sentimental name on a highway should be restricted to purely state highways. It means the destruction of a national highway to do such a thing. National highways depend upon acceptance by the people of all the states not only of the name but of the plans and policies. The Old Spanish Trail at the cost of years of hard work has attained this. A national highway also depends for its success upon recognition by the people, papers, magazines and organizations of the United States. The Old Spanish Trail has also attained this. The people of the United States and of the other OST states will not accept the name of Jefferson Davis. If Texas destroys the Old Spanish Trail as a national highway she will be guilty of a breach of faith to the other states; she will destroy a recognition and a goodwill worth millions to the state as people are drawn to the state by the appeal the Old Spanish Trail holds for everyone, and settlement, investment and development follows

Inasmuch as the real womanhood of Texas, I believe, do not understand I think you can exercise a worthy and constructive influence in this matter.

Sincerely,

Harral B. Ayres,  
OST Managing Dir