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"Elmwood"
Cambridge, Mass.
May 23, 1917

MAY 26 1917

Old Spanish Trail Association
S. A. LeBlanc, Secretary
c/o Mobile Liners Inc.
Mobile, Alabama

Dear Sir:

Your letter of May 17th to Mr. Davis is received. He was sorry not to have participated personally in the meeting at Tallahassee, Florida. We offered to furnish maps and literature for distribution but did not receive any requisition on time. In this connection we shall be very glad to do what we can to make the meeting called by the Mobile Chamber of Commerce a success and shall be glad to furnish maps and literature for distribution on receiving advices. We have so written them. We are certainly in hearty favor of all that you are doing and we shall be very glad to do our share towards its accomplishment. We believe, however, that the National Government will in no manner participate in the building of a selected alignment. The very minute you attempt to get National appropriations for a specific alignment all other alignments join together to defeat such legislation. There is only one way to accomplish it, and that is by getting Congress to appropriate moneys for building a system of National Highways, built and maintained at National expense and under National control. Once that is accomplished certain specific alignments will be selected for the earliest completion. To attempt to get legislation across for any specific alignment by itself is wasting time and will accomplish nothing, and you can readily see the reason why. Those of you who are in favor of the immediate building of the Old Spanish Trail would resist the immediate building of a similar military highway along the Northwest Trail unless your alignment were likewise included. You will see the point.

Yours very truly,

for

Charles Henry Davis

President

CHD/FSP