

Commonwealth of Kentucky

STATE SENATE

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JOHN SCHICKEL

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Administrative
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September 27, 2021

The Honorable Andy Beshear
Governor of Kentucky
700 Capital Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Governor Beshear:

It has come to my attention that your administration plans on closing the road between the Capitol building and the Capitol Annex building for security reasons. This would be a mistake.

Kentucky has the most beautiful state capital in the nation. During my past 12 years serving the legislature, I often hear from constituents on how much they enjoy visiting our state capital. One of the reasons they enjoy it so much is because of the easy access compared to their visits to our nation's capital in Washington, DC. Seniors from my district especially enjoy visiting the capital in springtime when they can drive around the Capitol and see the gorgeous tulips, the floral clock, and the rose garden without ever getting out of their cars. In the wintertime, they enjoy the same experience with the beautiful Christmas decorations that adorn the Capitol, Annex, and Governor's Mansion. Closing this road would severely restrict this experience for them.

Often citizens, expressing their first amendment rights to petition the government, form caravans whether it be by using beer trucks, milk trucks, school buses, or vehicles adorned with signs and loud speakers. Personally, as a state legislator, I have always enjoyed this experience interacting with constituents who agree and disagree with me. Ending this Kentucky political tradition would be a mistake.

As a retired federal law enforcement officer and a local police officer, I respect the recommendations of the security task force and our federal law enforcement partners. However, security concerns must always be balanced with the need for an open government in a representative republic. Security concerns in the report can be achieved by other means than closing this vital road.

The Honorable Andy Beshear

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In conclusion, I would like to thank you for your leadership during these challenging times. I look forward to your response regarding this matter and hope that you may reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Schickel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John Schickel
State Senator

JS/kl