



STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives

August 6, 2012

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Rules

Director Scott Bennett
Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department
Post Office Box 2261
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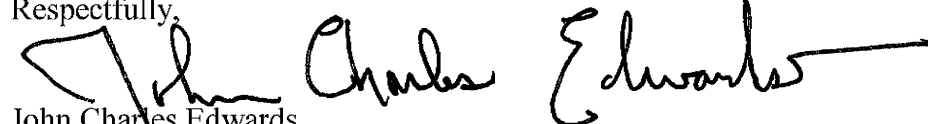
Dear Mr. Bennett:

The purpose of this letter is to let you know I support looking at all options allowing the current Broadway Bridge to be rehabilitated if it can be done in a safe and cost effective manner. I have spoken with Mayor Mark Stodola of Little Rock and Mayor Patrick Henry Hays of North Little Rock about this issue and wanted to let you know my thoughts as well.

Safety has to be the priority here. We all want a bridge that can carry traffic well into the future that will keep our citizens safe. It is my understanding that the current structure could be rehabilitated at a cost significantly less than the 58 million dollars estimated to build a new bridge and be safe. If this turns out to be correct, it only strengthens the case for keeping the Broadway Bridge to me.

Another issue of concern is the amount of time the construction of a new bridge would take, and the impact it would have on the cities. The time frame I have been given is between 18 to 24 months for the construction of a new bridge versus 3 months to retrofit and rehabilitate the current bridge. I am very interested in knowing what your engineering staff believes regarding these time frames. My bottom line is this: If safety can be improved; money can be saved; and traffic congestion reduced, then keeping the current bridge would be the best option for the public. If not, we can always look at other alternatives. I look forward to learning more from you and your staff.

Respectfully,


John Charles Edwards
State Representative