

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS

WHEREAS, Congress has appropriated \$1.3 Million for a study to determine the need and feasibility of constructing an interstate highway (hereinafter referred to as I-3) from Savannah, Ga. to Knoxville, Tenn.; and

WHEREAS, I-3, if constructed would possibly traverse through or near Macon County, North Carolina, where the Town of Highlands is located; and

WHEREAS, neither the State of North Carolina nor any County in Western North Carolina was consulted before hand on legislation introduced in the US Congress by the Georgia Congressional delegation regarding the placement of an interstate highway through the Southern Appalachian mountains; and

WHEREAS, the beauty of our region is the main asset that draws tourism, which feeds the economy of the Town of Highlands. Therefore, the construction of a federal interstate highway through the existing rugged terrain of Western North Carolina would have a devastating environmental, economic, cultural and aesthetic impact on these mountains, including the Nantahala National Forest and Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and

WHEREAS, this interstate highway has little support from Highlands residents and their elected representatives at the local, state, and federal levels, who prefer such monies be allocated for the repair of existing highway infrastructure, including unsafe bridges; and

WHEREAS, in support and solidarity with our neighboring counties and towns in NE Georgia and western North Carolina (including the Macon County Board of Commissioners), who have expressed their clear opposition to this interstate highway;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Highlands is respectfully opposed to a federally-funded interstate corridor called I-3 (or any other name for such a corridor).

Adopted on March 1, 2006

Signed by: Don Mullen, Mayor

Notarized by: Richard Betz, Town Clerk