

SOUTHWESTERN COMMISSION

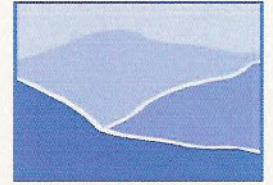
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Stephen "Doc" Sellers, Chairman
Clay County

Cherokee County

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Clay County

Hayesville

Graham County

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Lake Santeetlah

Haywood County

Canton
Clyde
Maggie Valley
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Macon County

Franklin
Highlands

Swain County

Bryson City

RESOLUTION BY THE SOUTHWESTERN NORTH CAROLINA PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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 traverse at least three southwestern North Carolina counties; and,

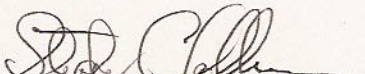
WHEREAS, neither the State of North Carolina nor any county in southwestern North Carolina was consulted before the I-3 study legislation was introduced in the US Congress; and,

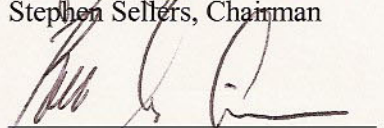
WHEREAS, the natural beauty of our Southern Appalachian region is the main asset that draws tourism, which feeds our economy. Consequently, the construction of an interstate highway through the rugged terrain of southwestern North Carolina would have a devastating environmental, economic, cultural, and aesthetic impact on these mountains, including the Nantahala National Forest and Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and,

WHEREAS, this proposed interstate highway has very little support from southwestern North Carolina citizens or their elected representatives, the preference instead being that any new federal highway funds be allocated for the repair of existing highway infrastructure and the completion of Appalachian Corridor K.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Governing Board of the Southwestern Commission that it is opposed to the proposed I-3.

ADOPTED this the 23rd day of January 2006.


Stephen Sellers, Chairman


Bill Gibson, Executive Director