



Stop I-3 Coalition Newsletter

January, 2007

Notes from the Chair — Time to End “Earmarks”

The new leadership of the 110th Congress has vowed to strictly limit appropriation earmarks under its watch. That is good news for those of us opposed to Interstate 3 (I-3) and other wasteful spending of our tax dollars. Earmarks are a favorite tool in Congress. They are used to bring home money for pet projects in the representatives' and senators' own districts. Such earmarks that load down an appropriation bill are often referred to as “pork,” or “pork-barrel” spending. Our country's massive budget deficit is due in no small part to the pork that bloats government spending.

One example of such an earmark was the \$1.32 million that was attached by Rep. Charlie Norwood (R-GA, 10th) to the 2005 Transportation Appropriation bill for I-3. That money is set to pay for the feasibility study of I-3. According to John Stone, Rep. Norwood's spokesman, the \$1.32 million of pork was “great news for the south.” Mr. Stone has explained that the study will investigate routing, costs, benefits, environmental and archaeological impacts and economic development.

According to the Federal Highway Administration's website the I-3 corridor has essentially been determined. I-3 will run through north Georgia and western North Carolina, cutting through our mountains and skirting the western boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. See for yourself at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/sec1927maps.htm>

We all need to keep an eye on the 110th Congress as it moves forward with the agenda to curtail earmarks and pork barrel spending. As voters we can hold their feet to the fire to ensure that earmarks for pet highway projects that would destroy our quality of life and waste our tax dollars are a thing of the past.

— Greg Kidd, chairman, Stop I-3 Coalition



A small ante, please

As the Stop I-3 Coalition progresses in its efforts to promote proper transportation planning in the Southern Appalachian region, we are finding ourselves urged to broaden our financial base, which, to date, has relied primarily on a handful of generous individual and organizational contributors.

The Coalition has more than 1,400 members on its rolls, and many thousand more supporters when one counts the 35 supporting organizations that have rallied to the Stop I-3 cause.

Even small contributions from even a percentage of this membership base would go a long way to providing the short-term financial stability we need and desire.

So, please get out your checkbook today or go online to make the contribution that will make all the difference. Such contributions are still tax-deductible, under our current agreement with the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition.

Please make the check out to SAFC/Stop I-3 Coalition, and mail to 46 Haywood Street, Suite 323, Asheville, North Carolina, 28801-2838, or click on this site to make a donation online, click on: <http://www.stopi-3.org/donate.html>



Stop I-3 comments on nuclear complex proposal



Stop I-3 Coalition has filed a series of detailed questions and comments to the federal Department of Energy regarding agency plans to increase nuclear weapon activity near Augusta, Georgia, and Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

As the proposed Route 3 would link Augusta and Oak Ridge to the port of Savannah, the coalition registered concerns that I-3, if ever built, would become a convenient route for traffic in radioactive materials, raising a host of safety and environmental concerns.

For a copy of the entire coalition letter on this topic, click on:

http://www.stopi-3.org/letters_to_officials/011207_Wyka_stopi3.html



Bumper stickers available

Stop I-3 Coalition bumper stickers are still available from a dedicated volunteer, Kathy Williams, for \$1.00 per sticker. Contact her at sauteewill@alltel.net, or at 706.878.3349. This also is an excellent method of keeping the issue in the public eye.

And some of our members have found that the eye-catching stickers are an excellent gift to friends and family living outside the I-3 corridors.

