

CHARLES H. TAYLOR
11TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA



339 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3311
(202) 225-6401

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR
CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3311
September 26, 2005

22 SOUTH PACE SQUARE
SUITE 330
ASHEVILLE, NC 28801
(828) 251-1988

HENDERSONVILLE OFFICE
(828) 697-8539

MURPHY OFFICE
(828) 837-3249

SYLVA OFFICE
(828) 586-6100

WAYNESVILLE OFFICE
(828) 456-7559

WEB SITE:
www.house.gov/charlestaylor

Dear :

Thank you for contacting me to express your opposition to the proposed Interstate 3 project. I always appreciate hearing from constituents and greatly benefit from knowing their views.

As you may be aware, Rep. Charlie Norwood (R-GA) has introduced H.R. 310 which will authorize a feasibility study for the construction of Interstate 3 from Savannah to Knoxville. The provisions of this legislation were included in H.R. 3, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. H.R. 3 will provide \$1,320,000 for the study.

Let me be clear, the money in this legislation will be used for a study and nothing more. The bill does not provide money for land acquisition or construction. Like you, I am concerned about the route chosen for the study. While I cannot speak for the route to be used in Georgia or in Tennessee, I do believe that it would be extremely difficult for such a massive project to be completed in North Carolina. From a practical standpoint, it would be exceedingly expensive to build such a route through our mountains and I am concerned about the environmental effects such a project would carry. Also, the proposed route uses existing federal highways which travel through very rugged terrain in Western North Carolina. For example, sections of US Highway 129 would be nearly impossible to use for an interstate highway. On one side of 129 is the Great Smoky Mountains National Park while on the other side of the road there are often steep dropoffs. I hope that officials at USDOT will see the difficulty in commencing such a project in our area.

Again, I believe it is important to remember that a study does not equate to construction. It is very possible that the USDOT will find that such an interstate is not feasible or necessary. As this process continues I certainly will monitor any changes in proposed routes and I will also continue to collect input from the citizens of Western North Carolina.

Again, thank you for contacting me. If I can be of any further assistance regarding this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. With warmest regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Charles H. Taylor
Member of Congress

CHT:ash