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August 23, 2005

Dear Friends,

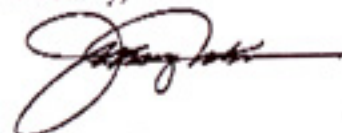
As you are aware, Congressman Norwood, Senator Chambliss and I have secured funding to study the pros and cons of building Interstate-3 from Savannah, GA to Knoxville, TN, and Interstate-14 from Augusta, GA to Natchez, MS.

There is a significant amount of concern in northeast Georgia because of the nature of the mountains, and I've heard from a lot of folks in Rabun County, White County and Habersham County. That is exactly why we are conducting these studies – so we can determine whether it is feasible. I want to make it perfectly clear that no routes have been decided for I-3 or I-14 because we haven't answered the most important question of all: Should we even build these interstates?

I think the forthright thing to do is to get the funds necessary to do a thorough study, give the residents and local elected officials of these areas every opportunity to respond – just as you are doing this evening and will continue to do – and to consider the environmental concerns that you have. The money we have secured in Congress is money to do exactly that. These two studies will determine whether sufficient demand exists to create these interstates, what the potential cost might be, what the environmental issues might be, as well as which routes would provide access to the greatest number of people.

These studies will be designed to seek community responses such as yours. I appreciate and understand your concerns and I look forward to seeing the results of this study. As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office with questions or concerns on this or any issue.

Sincerely,



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator