

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3308

December 12, 2005

Mr. Roger Turner  
C/o Western North Carolina Alliance  
16 Stewart Street  
Franklin, North Carolina 28734

Dear Mr. Turner:

Thank you for contacting me about a proposal for Interstate 3. I appreciate hearing from you on this issue.

On February 18, 2005, Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) introduced the Interstate 3/3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Highway Initiation Act, S. 459. This legislation would designate a new interstate highway to be constructed between Savannah, Georgia and Knoxville, Tennessee and direct the Secretary of Transportation to study and report funding necessary to construct the new interstate. Language similar to this bill was included in the transportation reauthorization bill signed into law by the President on August 10, 2005.

I have concerns about the feasibility and cost of the proposed interstate. The proposed route travels through very rugged terrain in Western North Carolina and could potentially damage the Nantahala National Forest and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It is important to note that money included in the transportation bill will be used for a study and not for land acquisition or construction of the interstate. I am concerned the proposed interstate may be unnecessary or too difficult to build, and I look forward to reviewing the results of this study. I assure you that I will continue to follow this issue closely.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. If I can be of further assistance on this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or visit my website at <http://burr.senate.gov>.

Sincerely,



Richard Burr  
United States Senator

RB:kah

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