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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Charles Jenkins

Georgia Representative – District 8

State Representative Charles Jenkins, on September 10, 2005, presented the following message to members of the House of Representatives:

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I would like to bring before you for information the subject of an interstate highway study that has been included in the National Transportation Budget.

Earlier this year, citizens of Northeast Georgia, more particularly District 8, comprised of Towns, Union, Rabun and White Counties learned that a study was being proposed for a road identified as I-3. It would determine if such a road should be constructed which would run from Savannah via Augusta to Knoxville. The study also includes an East-West route; however, my comments this morning will not address the East-West portion of the study.

I want to direct your attention to the Savannah-Knoxville route. The consensus I have gained from 8th District constituents is that most people in the mountain counties do not want the Interstate built through the beautiful North Georgia Mountains.

It is the opinion of many that the billions of dollars that would be required to construct the road would involve too much expense for our country, which is already experiencing a financial crunch.

Next, it is the opinion of many that our beautiful mountains should be preserved for the citizens of Georgia and other visitors to enjoy. It is felt that the U.S. Government should not come into communities, towns and counties to build interstate highways against the will of a majority of the property owners who live in the respective areas and who do not want the pollution and crime that the citizens feel are inherent with interstates.

Also, there is a strong opinion of many North East Georgia Citizens that the economic gains from such a road would be minimal.

I thank you Mr. Speaker and colleagues in the House for the opportunity you have given me to bring this subject to your attention.