

## BE PERSISTENT IN OPPOSITION TO I-3.

Many times the strategy of Washington, D.C. is to prolong and wear out the opposition. During this election year, I feel, it is imperative that citizens and local officials be persistent in speaking out against I-3. I am therefore reiterating and amplifying to Federal and State officials' Towns County Citizens opposition to I-3.

An open letter to U. S. Senators' Saxby Chambliss & Johnny Isackson, Congressman, Paul Broun, Gov. Sonny Perdue, State Sen. Nancy Schafer & State Rep. Charles Jenkins.

I am writing to reiterate my opposition and that of Towns County citizens who voted over 92% against I-3 coming through Towns County, in a straw vote which I commissioned Towns County Election Board to conduct.

Due to budget shortfalls, the Georgia D.O.T. recently postponed indefinitely the following major road and bridge safety projects for Towns County which were to begin this year (1-'08): Widening to five lanes from the junction traffic light at Hwy. 76 & 17 to the North Carolina line toward Hayesville. Construction was eliminated on five bridges, determined to be unsafe and too narrow, as follows: Two bridges on Hwy 64 from Young Harris to Warne, N. C., Two bridges on Hwy. 75 toward Helen, and One bridge on Hwy 76 toward Clayton. In previous years where State aid was allotted to pave several miles of rural Towns County roads from the State Local Assistant Road Project, only approximately one mile was received from LARP for '08.

Building I-3 through our mountains at a cost of over 25 million dollars per mile while at the same time eliminating much needed road safety and maintenance projects, due to budget shortfalls, makes absolutely no sense.

Towns County's primary industry, tourism, would be devastated. Excessive noise and air pollution from 18-wheelers coming from the port of Savannah to Knoxville, Tenn. will degrade the quality of life of our citizens. Just imagine 24 hours per day of semi-trucks and air brakes as the big rigs struggle to make their way across the mountains and through Towns County. The noise from roadways echoes through the mountains and seemingly is amplified many times before reaching homes.

I am inclosing a copy of the Resolution strongly opposing I-3, which I adopted on 1-9-06 as my first act upon taking office. I beseech you to listen to your constituents in Towns County and other Northeast Georgia Counties on this vital matter.

Bill Kendall  
Sole Commissioner  
Towns County