

August 21, 2009

David K. Baker
US Army Corps of Engineers
151 Patton Avenue, Room 208
Asheville, NC 28801-5006

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING TIP A9, Sections B and C (Stecoah to Robbinsville section)

Dear Mr. Baker:

I am unalterably opposed to the destructive plan to build another section (Stecoah to Robbinsville) of the long-obsolete Corridor K roadway project.

Originally, the argument for such a highway hinged on the availability of cheap oil and fuel; this is obviously no longer the case. Instead, railroads are now accelerating their ability to provide a cheaper, less destructive, and less polluting alternative.

The archaic highway recommendation was conceived nearly a half century ago by the Appalachian Regional Commission which has now abandoned that approach in favor of railroad commerce. The former need has been met by the subsequent completion of efficient interstate highways.

The proposed roadway corridor would be massively destructive to the valuable natural and historic assets of the region which generate millions of dollars in annual recreational revenue to the mountain region, including scenic trails, trout streams, hunting habitat, campgrounds, recreational businesses, historic sites, and conservancies.

There is additional concern that such profound geologic disturbance could once again release immense quantities of stream-destructive pyritic poisons as did the mining industry in nearby Copper Hill, Tennessee.

At the end of May, 2009, the Obama administration issued a one-year moratorium against any road building in more than 50 million acres of national forests; it is anticipated that this ruling precedes a long-term ban on further road building or development.

In a period of disastrous economic decline, the funding of such an unnecessary, wasteful and destructive project is unthinkable. Far more sensible and far less damaging, environmentally and fiscally, would be the reparation of the few dangerous curves in existing U.S. 64 through the Ocoee Gorge which are key to truckers' concerns.

In conclusion, I see no justification to continue, and many reasons to reject this obsolete road project. I urge the denial of authorization for TIP A9 B and C. Thank you for this opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Grove
President