



TIM BURCHETT
SENATOR
7TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
SUITE 810A WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37248-0207
(615) 741-1766
FAX (615) 741-7200
8224 BENNINGTON DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37909
(865) 693-1903

Senate Chamber
State of Tennessee
NASHVILLE

MEMBER OF COMMITTEES
COMMERCE, LABOR AND AGRICULTURE
FINANCE, WAYS AND MEANS
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

April 10, 2006

Commissioner Gerald Nicely
505 Deaderick Street, Suite 700
James K. Polk Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Dear Commissioner Nicely:

While all seventeen active members of the Knoxville Regional Parkway Design Resource Team signed a report on April 5, 2006 containing their recommendations for the Knoxville Orange Route, I find it very significant that ALL seven of the community representatives of the resource team submitted a supplemental report that criticized the process and the Orange Route. The community representatives' report urges TDOT to stop wasting money on this road immediately and start considering other, more effective options for solving Knoxville's transportation problems, now and in the future.

The Report stresses that, "Oral and written comments received from the public show widespread recognition that the orange route passes through a part of Knox County that is already developing rapidly and will clearly be considered "too close in" to Knoxville to serve as an effective bypass by the time it is built".

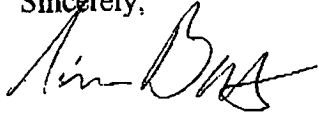
The representatives agreed that air and water quality will suffer and that the route is hampered by caves and sinkholes.

I am aware that the submission of the Resource Team report concludes a so called AContext Sensitive Solutions process but I would be remiss not to mention that the last set of Apublic workshops for the Loudon County, Hardin Valley, Karns/Solway, and Claxton/Heiskell Communities held in February, 2006 was attended by 888 citizens. A compilation of their questionnaires indicated that more than six-to-one opposed the Orange Route selection. Should TDOT and our government ignore this? I would urge you to accept the input of the citizens and the community members of the Resource Ateam, and shelve the Orange Route selection, while requiring TDOT to go back to the drawing board and initiate an honest process that will come up with the best solution to Knoxville's traffic congestion and air pollution problems and maximize use of our tax dollars.

While special interests will lobby for the construction of the Orange Route, it does not solve

Knoxville's traffic or air pollution problems and the stated cost will sky rocket due to the problems noted above. In fact, this highway will endanger the children and others in the effected communities by exacerbating our air pollution problems by locating a major highway with largely diesel traffic through a valley trapping dangerous emissions (heavy particulates) that are known to cause serious health problems like cancer. As now planned, The Orange Route will be next to an intermediate school, a planned high school and a community college. I am concerned that the air pollution impact of this highway has never been properly considered and that the input of our citizens is apparently being ignored.

Sincerely,



Tim Burchett
State Senator



Parkey Strader
State Representative