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CLARENCE McRAE, DILLON, S.C.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

W. CLAY YOUNG  
CLERK TO COUNCIL  
LISA B. GRAY

## Dillon County Council

P.O. BOX 449  
DILLON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29536  
TELEPHONE: 843-774-1400  
FAX: 843-774-1443

November 17, 2006

Ms. Elizabeth S. Mabry  
Executive Director  
SC Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 191  
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Re: I-73

Dear Ms. Mabry:

Thank you for your letter dated October 9, 2006 regarding I-73 in Dillon County. Dillon County Council, the City of Dillon and Dillon County Development Board have been working together to study the effects of the proposed route of I-73 through our county.

Collectively, we feel the proposed route of I-73 will have a negative impact on our community. The highway as proposed does not lend itself to any meaningful opportunities for development in our county. The only interchange that will allow traffic off the interstate system is south of the town of Latta at Highway 501. If I-73 is built through Dillon County in the current proposed design, the county will experience negative business and job impacts on Highways 9, 38, 301 and 501. Traffic will be funneled down I-73 taking away opportunities on these other highways for retail and commercial growth as well as sustaining current business.

Although the frontage road in your letter is certainly a nice gesture, it will not provide a meaningful solution to the negative impact I-73 will have on Dillon County.

We would like to propose the following solution to offset job and business losses we know will follow as a result of being connected to the I-73 preferred route as designed in Dillon County.

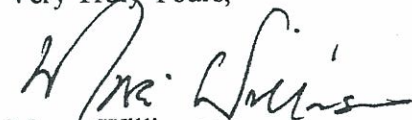
Our solution is to build I-73 along the preferred route that SCDOT has selected provided that a four-lane, unlimited access industrial corridor be constructed connecting I-95 to I-73. The route for the industrial corridor would essentially be the same as the route that had been identified as the "Northern Route" for I-73 in Dillon County, crossing US Hwy 301 between Latta and Dillon. This corridor would be a major asset for multi-use development and would connect I-73 and I-95. The growth and development potential on a corridor such as this would be much greater than I-73.

We are asking for your support to develop and build this corridor in Dillon County. We would like to request a meeting with you and your team along with Senator Yancey McGill and Dr. Fred Carter to discuss the possibility of building this corridor. I have enclosed a copy of your map from the internet to indicate the pathway for the industrial corridor in Dillon County.

I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration and look forward to an opportunity to work out a meaningful solution for Dillon County.

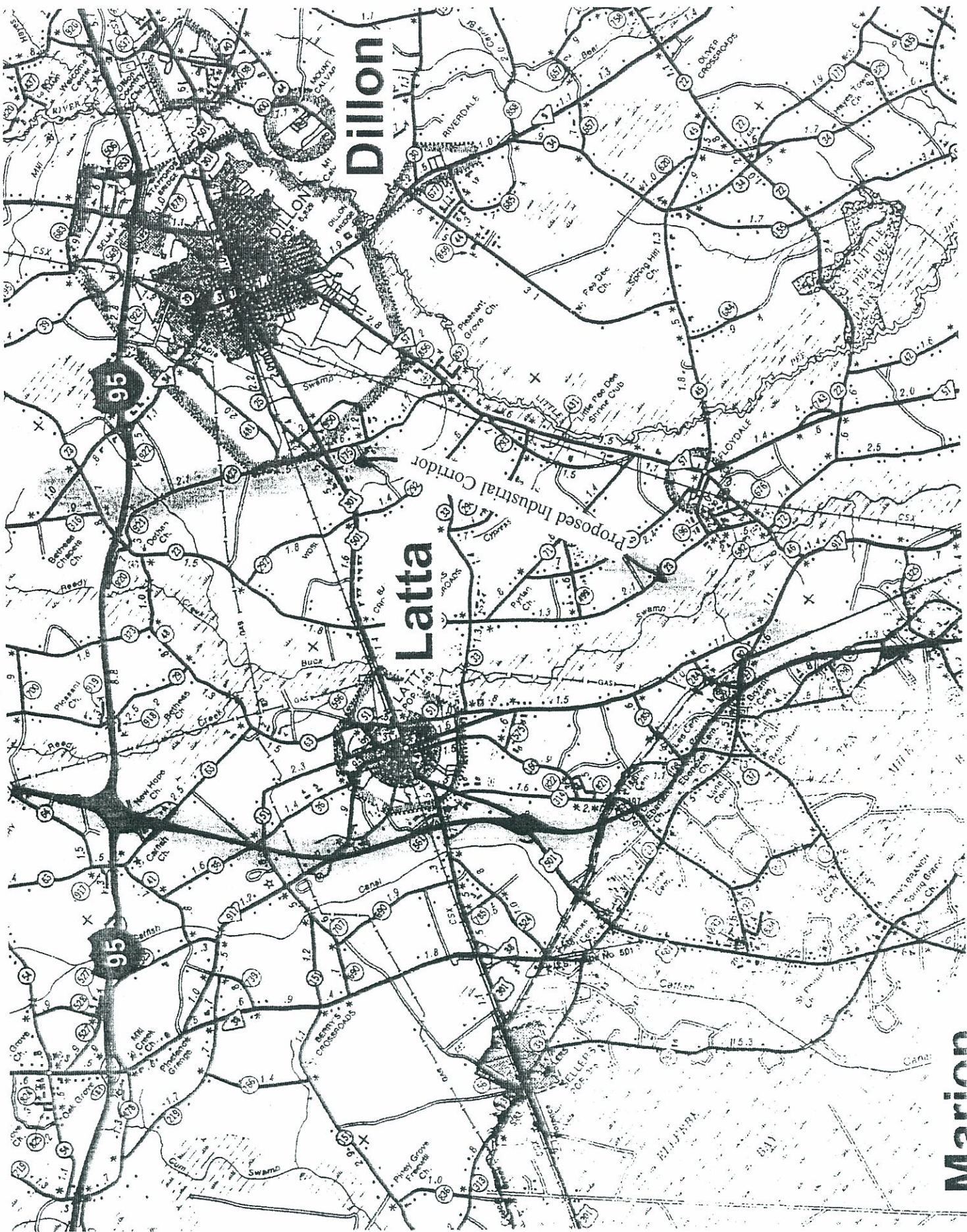
I appreciate your concern and interest in Dillon County.

Very Truly Yours,



Macee Williamson  
Chairman

Cc: Yancey McGill, SC State Senator  
Kent Williams, SC State Senator  
Jackie Hayes, SC State Representative  
Doug Jennings, SC State Representative  
Todd Davis, Mayor of Dillon  
Bobby Jones, SCDOT Commissioner, Firth Congressional District  
Marvin Stevenson, SCDOT Commissioner, Sixth Congressional District  
Jeff McKay, NESA Director  
Tony Chapman, State Highway Engineer ✓



Dillon

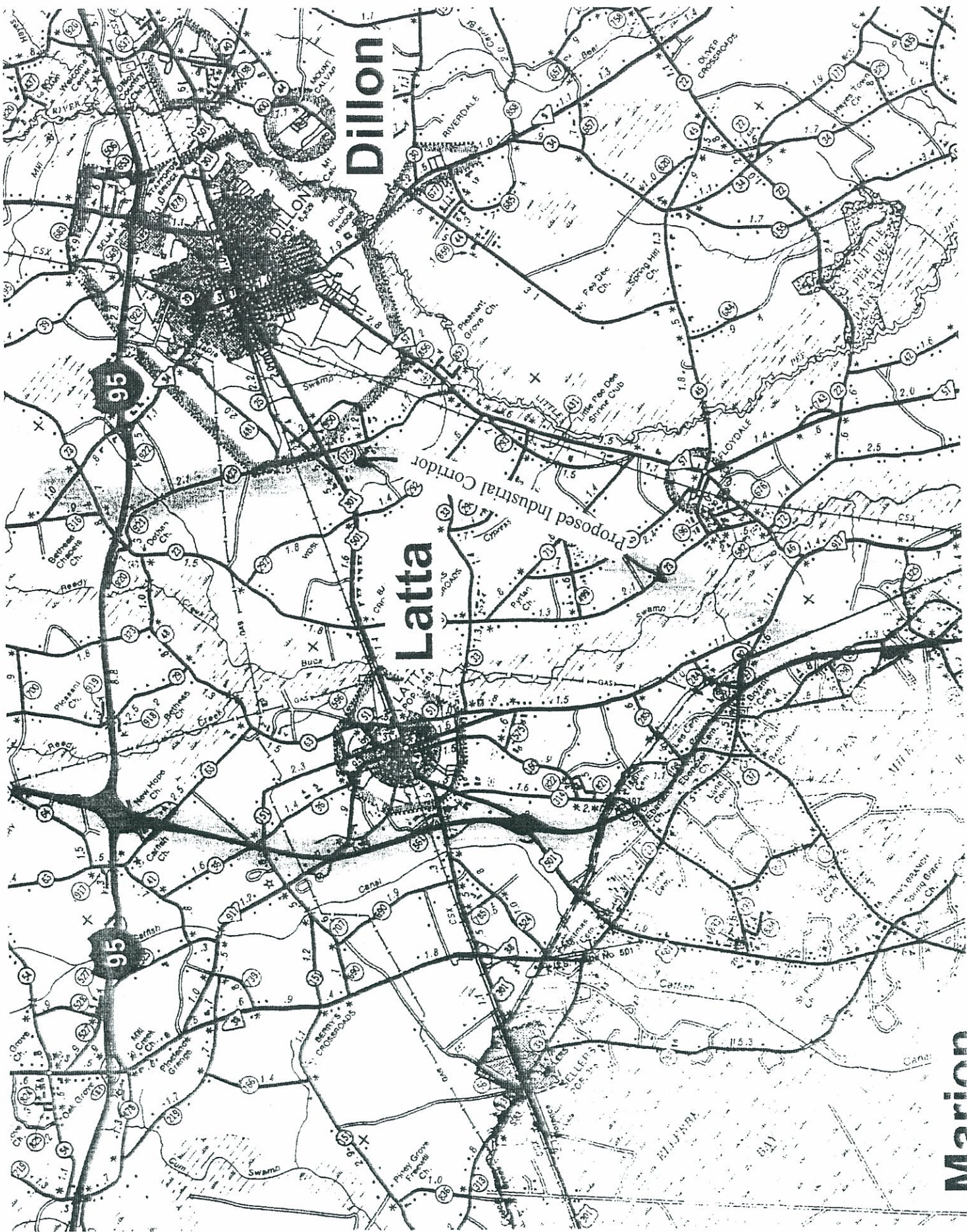
Latta

Marion

Proposed Industrial Corridor

95

95



JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.  
5TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSISTANT TO THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

1401 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-5501

COMMITTEES:  
RANKING MEMBER, BUDGET  
ARMED SERVICES

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES:

TOM GETTYS BUILDING  
BOX 360  
ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA 29731  
(803) 327-1114

39 E. CALHOUN STREET  
SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA 29150  
(803) 773-3882

88 PUBLIC SQUARE  
DARLINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29532  
(843) 393-3998

August 1, 2006

The Honorable Elizabeth Mabry  
Executive Director  
South Carolina Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 191  
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Ms. Mabry:

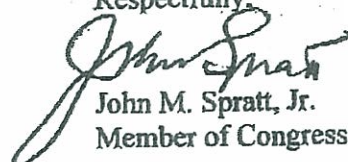
Several weeks ago, representatives of Signode Corporation visited my office to discuss the preferred route for Interstate 73 in Dillon County recently announced by the South Carolina Department of Transportation. As you may know, Signode employs 72 people at a manufacturing plant in Latta that produces polyester plastic strapping. I was informed at this meeting that the SCDOT preferred route for I-73 passes directly through Signode's Latta manufacturing facility. As you can imagine, Signode is quite concerned that this siting decision could force them to shut down their facility to accommodate the new interstate.

I understand that the preferred corridor identified by SCDOT is half a mile wide, and that SCDOT representatives have verbally confirmed with Signode that they have no intention of siting the road directly through the Signode plant. However, Signode has a substantial expansion of their plant planned, and is understandably reluctant to spend the money needed to complete this expansion until they have written assurance that it will not be a wasted investment.

I know that SCDOT shares my goal of economic development in the Pee Dee, and I know you appreciate the economic impact that an expansion of the Signode plant could mean for Dillon County. With that in mind, I ask that you please write a letter to the plant manager of the Signode facility affirming your intent to construct Interstate 73 in a way that allows the plant to continue operations and expansions unabated.

I have enclosed a letter from the Signode plant manager which lays out more extensively their concerns and need for written assurance. My staff and I stand ready to provide you with any additional information you may need on this issue. Thank you for your consideration of this letter, and for any assurance you might provide to Signode as a result.

Respectfully,

  
John M. Spratt, Jr.  
Member of Congress



*Town of Aynor*  
600 South Main Street • P.O. Box 66  
Aynor, South Carolina 29511

*Telephone*  
(843) 358-6231  
*Fax* (843) 358-0754

July 12, 2006


Mr. Mitchell Metts, PE  
Project Manager  
South Carolina Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 191  
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Dear Mr. Metts:

The Aynor Town Council continues to support a northerly course of I-73 as the route through Horry County. Such a route would avoid the geographical division of Aynor.

We also support as much access as possible for the areas affected by I-73. We would hope plans would allow these citizens to follow traditional trade routes as near as possible.

Sincerely,

  
Charles Dawsey  
Mayor, Town of Aynor



**Aynor Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**PO Box 175 Aynor, SC 29511**

June 28, 2006

Mr. Mitchell Metts, P.E.  
South Carolina Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 191  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-0191

Dear Mr. Metts:

This letter is being written on behalf of the membership of the Aynor Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber is concerned about the possible disruption of traffic flow to and from Aynor by I-73 as it passes through Horry County. It is the Chamber's recommendation that overpasses be built whenever possible where the I-73 corridor crosses local county and state maintained roads. The overpasses would minimize the disruption of traffic flow patterns to and from Aynor.

Any time and consideration that you could give to this request for additional overpasses would be appreciated by the merchants and citizens of Aynor, S.C.

Yours truly,

Dr. William Altman - President  
Aynor Area Chamber of Commerce

We the undersigned members of the Aynor Area Chamber of Commerce support the Chamber's request that overpasses be built whenever possible to minimize the disruption of traffic flow patterns to and from Aynor.

Craig K Morrison - American First Management  
Stephanie Brown - Aynor Flowers & Gifts  
James S. Hyatt - Palmetto Insurance and Financial Services, LL  
Robbie R. - Page Appraisal  
Marybeth - Aynor Tire Mart  
John W. Skiper - Holliday Associates, LLC  
Don Hopson - Hopson Enterprises  
Pete Ambler - The Conway National Bank  
Ben Bagnal - Bagnal Pharmacy  
Judith C. Goodson - Goodson Const. Co. Inc.  
Stephanie Gibbs - Stephanie's Nails  
Anderson Bros Bank  
Steven Johns - Johnson Funeral Home

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**SIGNODE CONSUMABLE PRODUCTS OPERATIONS**  
Plastic Strapping  
4607 Highway 301 South  
Latta, South Carolina 29666

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## **SIGNODE®**

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June 27, 2006

Mr. Mitchell D. Metts, P.E.  
Program Manager  
South Carolina Dept. of  
Transportation  
P.O. Box 191  
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Dear Mr. Metts:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on behalf of the Signode facility I manage here in Latta concerning the preferred route of I-73.

When, in 1991, Signode, a division of Illinois Tool Works (ITW), decided to build a new focused production facility to produce a newly patented version of the polyester plastic strapping it had pioneered, Latta proved attractive for a variety of reasons. Today, 72 employees (of whom many are original members of my team) and \$25 million of investment later, our facility on Signode Drive is considered one of the most innovative and profitable among its sister facilities in North America and possibly anywhere in the world.

We are as much a part of this community as it is of us. Let me be clear that we recognize the need for and the benefits the I-73 corridor will bring to this region of the state and fully support it. We were extremely disappointed to learn that the State's preferred route for I-73 passes literally through our facility and will destroy this business.

While the period of time that will pass, from the recent announcement until grading begins, may be a few years off, the announcement has raised questions among ITW's management regarding plans we had made locally for further investment. In fact, the recent announcement has caused me to halt my efforts to request further investment here for which my management had already provided preliminary approval.

This Signode facility faces challenges most American manufacturers pray for. We have expanded from one production line in 1993 to five today. We operate 24/7/364; and we are hard pressed to keep up with demand. My counterparts at other similar Signode facilities in Kentucky, Illinois and Pennsylvania have argued with ITW separately for the investment this Latta facility has so far secured; and, with this road project hanging over our heads, have a better chance of securing what I would otherwise request.

I need to expand my ability to purchase and store feedstock. Today, my raw material capacity is limited. If I experience any "glitch" in raw material delivery, production stops and my customers will seek product from another supplier, which may be another Signode facility or an overseas competitor. I need additional storage capacity and have started to prepare for the expansion; but that process has come to a complete halt.



Mr. Mitchell D. Metts, P.E.  
June 27, 2006  
Page two

Other concerns include:

1. If, for the sake of argument, the southern boundary of the project is moved to the north side of Signode Road, I need to know how the general construction of I-73 and the bridges erected over the rail tracks and Rt. 301 will affect access to my plant.
2. From my review of the maps and photos of this section, it appears that the only access to my plant from I-73 will be from Rt. 501 which joins Rt. 301 with a 130 degree turn to the south -- impossible for any truck to make.
3. Signode's competitors will also use this uncertainty to our disadvantage. In a world of just-in-time delivery, they will tell our customers to be on guard against delivery disruptions and to hedge their Signode orders with split orders directed to them, thereby lowering the profitability of this facility.
4. I have estimate that, other than general disruptions of this business, the required to physical transplant this facility to anywhere else would take a minimum of five years.

The longer the uncertainties over the final track of this road hang over our head, the less likely it will be for me to secure capital from ITW to grow this facility and fend off the efforts of my counterparts to secure this capital for their own plants. When will I receive written notice of the State's final decision regarding the section of I-73 that impacts Signode?

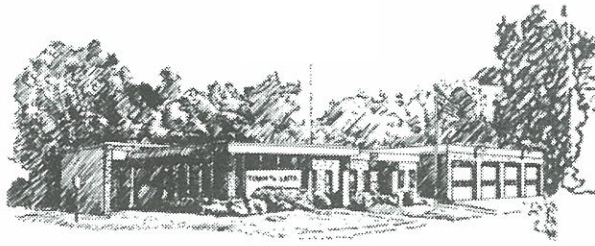
I look forward to your timely response. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

  
Bobby Gorn  
Plant Manager

cc: Hon. Jackie E. Hayes  
Hon. Kent M. Williams  
Hon. Lenneau Berry - Mayor of Latta  
E. "Toy" LeRoy Nettles, Jr. - CEO, Pee Dee Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Patrick Tyndall - US DOT  
John Becker - Signode Corp.  
Michael Lynch - ITW

MAYOR  
Lenneau Berry  
MAYOR PRO-TEM  
Christy L. Berry  
CLERK & TREASURER  
Mary Lou E. Power



COUNCIL  
Christy L. Berry  
Nancy G. Brigman  
Trudy Drawhorn  
Moses Kornblut  
Joe D. Spears  
Alex Stoops

## Town of Latta

107 NW Railroad Avenue  
Latta, South Carolina 29565  
Telephone (843) 752-5115 • Fax (843) 752-4355

June 27, 2006

Mr. Mitchell Metts  
South Carolina Department of Transportation  
I-73 Project Coordinator  
955 Park Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29206

Dear Mr. Metts:

The Town of Latta totally supports the preferred alignment of I-73. We will benefit not only from the economic development opportunities, but also from a traffic movement stand point. I-73 is the most important transportation investment decision confronting the Pee Dee region at this time.

The possibility of this corridor coming near Latta becomes a very positive and powerful zone for all citizens. We look forward toward making I-73 a reality. To make I-73 happen, we need to work together.

Sincerely,

Lenneau Berry  
Mayor

  
Mayor Pro-Tem Christy Berry  
Councilman Spears  
Councilman Stoops  
Councilwoman Brigman  
Councilman Kornblut  
Councilman Drawhorn

# Dillon County

SOUTH CAROLINA

June 21, 2006

Mitchell D. Metts, P.E.  
SCDOT  
955 Park Street, Room 303  
P.O. Box 191  
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Dear Mr. Metts:

On behalf of the County of Dillon, City of Dillon, the Dillon County Development Board and the Dillon, Marion and Marlboro Industrial Park Board, I respectfully submit this letter with attached resolutions opposing the route chosen by the SCDOT for I-73. We, the above mentioned bodies, believe the preferred route for I-73 should intersect I-95 between Latta and Dillon.

A major purpose of I-73 is to generate growth and economic development for South Carolina and the communities through which it will pass. The route chosen by SCDOT will provide little benefit to Dillon County. The County is being used as a "pass-through" with little or no consideration as to how it and its citizens are being impacted.

We intend to go on record with the Army Corp of Engineers as well as the Federal Highway Commission in opposition to the SCDOT preferred route.

Sincerely,



Eugene V. Butler, III  
Director

DILLON COUNTY  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD

PO Drawer 911

Dillon, SC 29536

843.774.1402

FAX 843.841.3872

[www.dilloncounty.org](http://www.dilloncounty.org)

E-MAIL  
[dilloncountydb@bellsouth.net](mailto:dilloncountydb@bellsouth.net)

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS it has been determined that Interstate Highway 73 is going to be constructed from Interstate Highway 95 in Dillon County and extending to the Conway By-Pass in Horry County and

WHEREAS this Highway has the potential for great economic benefit to Dillon County and

WHEREAS the unemployment rate in Dillon County is among the highest in the State of South Carolina and

WHEREAS the Dillon County Council wishes to receive the highest possible benefit from Interstate Highway 73 and

WHEREAS Dillon County Council believes that Interstate Highway 73 should be located so as to furnish the greatest benefit to all the citizens of Dillon County

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY DILLON COUNTY COUNCIL

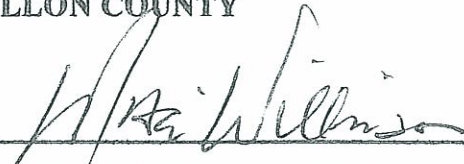
1. THAT interstate Highway 73 be located so that no industry presently situate in Dillon County is adversely affected by the Highway.
2. THAT not less than three (3) major interchanges for ingress and egress to and from Interstate Highway 73 be located in Dillon County.
3. THAT all contractors performing work on the construction of Interstate Highway 73 be encouraged to hire as much local labor as possible.

4. THAT Dillon County Council believes that a greater benefit will inure to Dillon County by locating Interstate Highway 73 between the Towns of Dillon and Latta and therefore request that the South Carolina Department of Transportation reconsider it's present preferred location for Interstate Highway 73 and locate said Highway between the Towns of Dillon and Latta.

THAT THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED THIS 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2006.

DILLON COUNTY

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Macio Williamson", written over a horizontal line.

Macio Williamson, Chairman

# RECORD OF RESOLUTIONS

Dayton Legal Blank, Inc., Form No. 30045

05-06

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

Passed \_\_\_\_\_

June 21

2006

## A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PREFERRED ROUTE OF I-73 THROUGH DILLON COUNTY

**WHEREAS**, the State of South Carolina, Dillon County, Marion County, Marlboro County and the City of Dillon have invested funds into a Regional Industrial Park through infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, for this reason, the Dillon City Council does not support the preferred route chosen by SCDOT that crosses over I-95.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Dillon, duly assembled this 21<sup>ST</sup> day of June, 2006, does not support the SCDOT decision.

Approved this 21 day of June, 2006.

Attest: Lynn Bowman  
Clerk, Lynn Bowman

Approved: John D. McInnis  
City Attorney, John D. McInnis

Todd Davis  
Todd Davis, Mayor

Kenneth H. Stephens  
Kenneth Stephens, Mayor Pro-tem

James Washington  
James Washington, Councilman

Randolph Gurley  
Randolph Gurley, Councilman

Douglas Jackson  
Douglas Jackson, Councilman

John Braddy  
John Braddy, Councilman

Phil Wallace  
Phil Wallace, Councilman