



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

For Immediate Release

July 25, 2007

Contact: Andrew Whalen, Communications Director
office: (202) 225-6401 / cell: (202) 731-5116

Rep. Shuler Continues Working toward North Shore Road Settlement *Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Pledges to Work w/Shuler on Conference Report*

Washington, D.C. – Representative Heath Shuler urged Representative John Olver (D-MA), the Chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, to accept a Senate amendment that would secure a settlement over the issue of the North Shore Road for Swain County, NC during a colloquy late yesterday afternoon on the floor of the House of Representatives.

On July 12th an amendment to the Senate's Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2008, offered by Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Senator Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), passed the Senate Appropriations Committee to allow funds remaining from the Environmental Impact Study to be used as the beginning of a full settlement with Swain County.

Rep. Shuler's colloquy occurred during the debate on the House of Representative's version of the Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill, H.R. 3074.

Member of Congress engage in colloquies on the floor to establish facts and viewpoints officially in the *Congressional Record*.

A transcript of the colloquy is below.

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Mr. Shuler (NC) Colloquy
On the North Shore Road in Swain County, NC

Mr. Shuler: Mr. Chairman, I rise today on behalf of myself and Congressman Zach Wamp of Tennessee.

In 1941 the United States was building up for World War II and in dire need of new sources of energy.

The Tennessee Valley Authority obtained federal funding to construct a hydroelectric dam in Swain County, North Carolina.

The construction of the dam required that an important road be flooded.

In a 1943 agreement, the Federal Government promised to rebuild the road.

In the 64 years since that agreement was signed, no road was completed and no settlement was offered to the people of Swain County.

The 2001 Transportation bill provided \$16 million to study the environmental cost of building a new road.

The National Park Service will complete that study in September.

Mr. Chairman, the financial and environmental costs are too high to build this road.

The National Park Service has said that the final EIS will recommend a cash settlement with the people of Swain County.

Senators Alexander and Dole have amended the Senate version of this bill with language to allow the Park Service to use the remaining funds from the study for this solution.

This common-sense solution enjoys strong bipartisan support in the North Carolina and Tennessee House delegations.

Mr. Chairman, would you be willing to work with me and Congressman Wamp to ensure that this bipartisan language is included in the final conference version of the bill?

Mr. Olver: I would like to thank the gentleman for bringing this issue to our attention.

Sixty-four years is a long and unreasonable amount of time to wait for the government to resolve this issue and so I pledge to work with you both on this issue as we move forward in this process and conference this bill with the Senate.