



## Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

**For Immediate Release**

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

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### **Rep. Shuler Statement on the Release of the NPS Final EIS**

*Washington, D.C.* – Today Representative Heath Shuler issued the following statement on the National Park Service's release of their Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The FEIS examined five alternatives for meeting the purpose and need of the Memorandum of Agreement between Swain County, the State of North Carolina, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

“With today's release of the Final EIS, Swain County and all of Western North Carolina have taken a significant step forward in resolving an issue that divided our community for over sixty years. I am very pleased that the National Park Service has recommended a monetary settlement to Swain County as the preferred alternative. This is a commonsense solution that protects the integrity of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, while also providing Swain County the resources it needs to invest in job creation and schools improvement.”

Rep. Shuler is currently working to ensure a Senate passed amendment to the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill remains in the final conference report of the bill. The amendment, offered by Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Senator Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), would allow funds remaining from the Environmental Impact Study to be used as the beginning of a full settlement with Swain County.

There is a standing resolution in support of the monetary settlement passed by the Swain County Board of Commissioners, 4-1. The resolution remains in effect today as the position of the people of Swain County expressed through their elected officials.

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