

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4925

To require a study and report regarding the construction and designation of a new Interstate from Augusta, Georgia to Natchez, Mississippi.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2004

Mr. BURNS (for himself, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BONNER, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. KINGSTON, and Ms. MAJETTE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To require a study and report regarding the construction and designation of a new Interstate from Augusta, Georgia to Natchez, Mississippi.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “14th/14 Amendment
5 Interstate Highway Initiation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDING.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The 11-State region in the Southeast that
2 has been known historically as the Southern Black
3 Belt is in need of the same regional economic devel-
4 opment plans in 2004 as those modeled by the Ap-
5 palachian Regional Commission in 1965.

6 (2) The Southern Black Belt has an African-
7 American population that is double the national av-
8 erage, due to historic population concentrations dat-
9 ing to the pre-emancipation period. It was largely
10 with the protection and economic advancement of
11 the residents of this region in mind that Congress
12 passed and the states ratified the 14th Amendment
13 to the U.S. Constitution in 1868, guaranteeing equal
14 rights to all persons in the United States, including
15 those formerly held in involuntary servitude.

16 (3) This region and its residents, particularly
17 the descendents of freed slaves, suffer from high un-
18 employment, low incomes, low education levels, poor
19 health, and high infant mortality. Congress recog-
20 nizes the studies, findings, and recommendations on
21 these problems of the Southern Black Belt by the
22 University of Georgia, Tuskegee Institute, North
23 Carolina State University, and the University of
24 Kentucky.

1 (4) Disparity in transportation infrastructure
2 investment has been a key contributing factor to the
3 persistent poverty and social ills of this region. The
4 lack of adequate east-west Interstate highway access
5 has provided a significant impediment to travel
6 throughout the region, served as a severe obstacle to
7 the attraction of industry and jobs, and has been a
8 detriment to public health and transportation safety.

9 (5) Congress hereby resolves that a new Inter-
10 state Highway designated “United States Interstate
11 Route 14” should be built through the heart of the
12 Southern Black Belt, linking Augusta, Georgia to
13 Natchez, Mississippi, following a route generally de-
14 fined through Macon and Columbus, Georgia; Mont-
15 gomery, Alabama; and Laurel and Natchez, Mis-
16 sissippi.

17 (6) In light of the promise of economic parity
18 made by the nation to this region in the 14th
19 Amendment, this new interstate highway should be
20 named the “14th Amendment Highway”.

21 **SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT.**

22 Not later than December 31, 2004, the Secretary of
23 Transportation shall study and report to the appropriate
24 committees of Congress regarding the steps and estimated
25 funding necessary to designate and construct a new inter-

1 state route (Interstate Route I-14) for the 14th Amend-
2 ment Highway, from Augusta, Georgia to Natchez, Mis-
3 sissippi (formerly designated the Fall Line Freeway within
4 the State of Georgia).

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