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Remarks by
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Ladies and Gentlemen, my remarks here today will be brief but I assure you my interest in this project is deep and sincere.

Some might ask why I, as Attorney General of North Carolina, am interested in a proposed North-South highway. I think those of you from my own State at least know part of the answer.

My home is in eastern North Carolina, though not as far East as this proposed highway would run, and a major portion of my political career has been spent promoting the development of the East. My roots are deep in the soil of this region. I share her hopes and aspirations. Frankly, in spite of a heavy schedule, my love for the East compelled me to come to Myrtle Beach today and speak on behalf of this project.

The potential of the East is boundless and certainly I do not need to dwell on this idea. But I think we should remember that in almost every instance where there is great

potential for progress and development, there is also the awful possibility of exploitation and destruction.

I do not want to see the horizons of the people of Eastern North Carolina limited by the dingy windows of industries more concerned about cheap labor than people and communities and the progress of the region. I do not want to see the natural beauty and charm of the East destroyed and the corpse shrouded in air and water pollution and the waste and litter resulting from unwise population planning.

We North Carolinians are not provincial. We have always welcomed and encouraged new industry, new people, and new ideas. But we have never been willing to prostitute the talents of our people or to tolerate the rape of the land and our natural resources.

For this reason, if for none other, I urge the construction of this highway. Think with me about what has happened where great arteries of commerce, such as the one we propose today, have been developed with the cooperation of responsible governmental officials.

Immediately we have seen blue ribbon industry, responsible industry - industries concerned about clean air, clean water, good communities for their workers and for top management, educational opportunities and a thousand other things which