



West
Virginia
Highlands
Conservancy

Working since 1967 for the conservation of West Virginia's natural resources

2/7/2023

Office of the Governor
State Capitol, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E
Charleston, WV 25305

Honorable Governor Jim Justice:

On behalf of the various organizations, businesses and citizens advocating for a northern route for the Parsons-to-Davis section of Corridor H, this letter is a statement to clarify our stance and our reasoning for being involved in this issue. If you watch the news nowadays, you will see and hear Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Transportation Jimmy Wriston say all manner of misleading things, chiefly that our only goal is to stop this project. To be abundantly clear, that is not our goal. We are advocating for a route that completes the highway, while also supporting a northern route that preserves the cultural, recreational, environmental, and historical characteristics of our area. **Our goal is a route that preserves all these crucial assets of our region, and helps, not hinders, our economic progress.** We have broad public support that continues to grow.

Secretary Wriston has been in the news and [testifying before Congress](#) saying things that are simply not true. Last September Wriston said in a MetroNews article "This is a small group of vocal people that is putting out a lot of disinformation simply to delay the project."¹ This is patently false. Secretary Wriston should be aware of the petition with almost 5,000 signatures from local residents and visitors alike. And even more telling, the Tucker County Chamber of Commerce conducted a survey of local businesses in Davis and Thomas and they overwhelmingly supported re-routing the highway north of both of the small towns. 28 businesses said Go North; 9 businesses said to use the Revised Original Preferred Alternative (ROPA); 5 businesses wanted more information. Wriston has been in front of Congress and the West Virginia Legislature for hearings and has repeatedly stated that our only goal is to stop this highway. That is completely false. It is simply a scare tactic and it has gotten old. **We are writing this letter to clear the air so that government officials and the public understand that we are advocating for an improved route, not stopping this highway.** In fact, we maintain that the fastest way to complete this highway is to study and implement a northern route that addresses the concerns raised by local residents, businesses, organizations and tourists (but ignored by Wriston).

¹ WV MetroNews: [Bumble bee is the newest hurdle for Corridor H development](#) September 13, 2022

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We would be glad to talk or meet with you to discuss this issue. Our hope is that this letter can set the record straight and assist Secretary Wriston in changing his tone and inaccurate messaging towards us.

Sincerely,

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Friends of Blackwater
Corridor H Alternatives

Cc: Senator Joe Manchin, III
Senator Shelly Moore Capito
Representative Alex Mooney
Senator Randy Smith
Senator Jay Taylor
Delegate John Paul Hott

1 WV MetroNews: [Bumble bee is the newest hurdle for Corridor H development](#) September 13, 2022

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