

MARK MEADOWS
11TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3311

1516 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6401

200 NORTH GROVE STREET
HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28792
(828) 693-5660

www.house.gov/meadows

February 4, 2013

Administrator Victor M. Mendez
Office of the Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Mendez,

This letter is in regard to the recent landslide on US Highway 441 in Swain County, North Carolina. This highway serves as the primary thoroughfare into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park from North Carolina.

Recent projections released by your agency have estimated the completion date for the repairs on US 441 to be May 15th. Allowing this highway to be closed for that length of time would stretch into the peak tourism season for the park and have significant economic consequences for Western North Carolina. In an area which already suffers from double-digit unemployment and significant levels of poverty, this prolonged closure would add to an already dire economic situation.

I urge you to make every effort during the contracting and construction process to aim for an April 15th deadline to have the highway reopened. Streamlining the contracting process to begin construction as soon as possible combined with an aggressive incentive package included in the contract are potential options available to meet this deadline. It is important to consider every alternative available in the expedited completion for these repairs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Mark Meadows
Member of Congress (NC-11)