

May 11, 2005

Representative Gene Wilson
881 Queen Street
Boone, NC 28607

Representative Wilson:

As a citizen of Watauga County, I feel deeply privileged to live in one of the most beautiful areas of our State and Nation. I also feel discouraged and shamed when I see the growing amount of litter that defaces our roads and highways and clutters our streams and rivers.

I am aware that roadside litter has numerous sources but I also know that willful littering is one of the real and significant sources. House Bill H1125, recently introduced by Representative Robert Grady addresses this problem. It requires that every applicant for a North Carolina driver's license sign a pledge to not litter. It also requires that the pledge be shown on the license above the applicant's signature. These are both powerful reminders to our citizens that along with our privilege to drive we have an obligation to be caring stewards of our surroundings. This is even more powerful when our surroundings contain such natural beauty as is found in Watauga County.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to support House Bill H1125. It might not stop littering, but it certainly takes us in a direction to reduce the problem and heighten awareness that littering is wrong and harmful.

Sincerely,