



Friday, November 14, 2008

Dear Georgia Legislators and Transportation Officials:

My name is Dr. Mel Dev, General Manager of Hampton Inn at the Commerce, GA exit on I-85. The reason I am writing you today is introduce myself, my company, and a continuing problem that adversely affects my company.

Hampton Inn has been in business for 10 years. Situated off of I-85 at exit 149 we rely heavily on the traveling motorist to view billboard signage and give us a chance at their business.

We have 20 people employed at Hampton Inn and pay in excess of \$156,000 in taxes to state and local government per year. We are a provider of employment, tax payers, and involved with our local communities as a group. The percentage of business we get from the I-85 traveler is in excess of 50%.

The ongoing problem of my ability to make a living from billboards that have trees blocking them is one you can stop. This should be the easiest fix in history. The billboards are blocked by trees causing a loss of business and provided a trashy look to our roadways. This does not include the loss of life or physical damage done when cars go off the road and hit the trees.

I want my billboard companies to be able to provide better service to me with your ability to let them get the trees cut. Your consideration will be greatly appreciated and remembered.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mel Dev

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