

# The Union Daily Times

## NEWS

### Meetings set on lake, health care

[Print Page](#)

By **CHARLES L. WARNER**

Published:  
Monday, March 17, 2008 1:31 PM CDT

Staff Writer

Fourth District Rep. Bob Inglis will discuss both the Patriot's Lake project and health care issues during a day-long visit to Union Thursday.

Union will be the latest stop on the "Seeking Patient-Centered Care" tour of the Upstate, aimed at gathering information and holding discussions about various health care issues facing communities of the Fourth Congressional District.

Inglis will visit Wallace Thomson Hospital for a discussion of rural health care in the Upstate (2-3:30 p.m.); visit the Union Public Health Department to discuss health care issues facing the more rural regions of the Upstate; and conduct a health care town hall meeting in the USC-Union auditorium (7-8:30 p.m.)

Patriot's Lake

Inglis has also scheduled two meetings to discuss the Patriot's Lake project.

He will host a 10:30 a.m. meeting at the Upstate Workforce Investment Center featuring William Stein, deputy district engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. At 6 p.m., Inglis will hold a one-hour meeting at the USC-Union auditorium to discuss the lake with the general public.

During the morning meeting, Stein will answer questions about the Corps' study on the possibility of a regional water supply reservoir in Union County. Priority was to be given to questions from members of Union County Council and the lake study committee. However, both council and the committee have said they will not attend the meeting, citing what they said was Inglis' negative attitude toward the project.

Inglis has angered many in the county by comparing the lake to the proposed Graving Island Bridge in Alaska. The project - which was canceled after much public opposition - would have built a bridge to a sparsely populated island at a cost of \$320 million. Opponents called it "the bridge to nowhere" and it has become a symbol of pork-barrel spending and cast an unflattering light on congressional earmarks.

Patriot's Lake would be formed by damming Tyger River and Fairforest Creek at a projected cost of \$187 million. Proponents have touted it as a source of water for the Upstate, an economic and recreational boon for the county and a source of hydroelectric power. It is opposed by a coalition of environmental groups who have instead called on the county to develop Tyger River without damming it.

The concept study by the Army Corps of Engineers found that while technically possible, the lake was not justified economically. The study concluded that the Upstate has sufficient supplies of water to meet its needs until 2030. The study's conclusions have been criticized as flawed by lake proponents who've pointed out that the combination of continued growth and persistent drought points to the need for the lake.

Copyright © 2008 - The Union Daily Times

[\[«\] Return to Home](#) | [\[x\] Close Window](#)

---