

Subject: Support Jordan Lake rules
From: Kathy Seaton <jkseaton@bellsouth.net>
Date: Thu, 13 Sep 2007 13:28:47 -0400
To: Rich.Gannon@ncmail.net

Rich Gannon
DENR-Division of Water Quality, Planning Section

Members of the Environmental Management Commission:

My husband and I live half a mile from the Haw River upstream from Jordan Lake, and we use the river and Jordan Lake for recreation (we swim with our granddaughter at the beaches and canoe and fish, though we don't eat the fish). We are concerned citizens as well as life-long supporters of environmental protection for the earth, from our own garden to the entire earth. We are very careful to limit runoff from our property, and we wish that all residents of the watershed would be equally careful, but without strong rules, that isn't going to happen. We have watched since the lake was built as it has gotten more and more polluted, and we strongly support strong rules to reduce nutrient pollution in Jordan Lake. As numerous studies have shown, Jordan Lake gets far more nutrient pollution, both nitrogen and phosphorus, from wastewater and runoff from the whole watershed, than it can handle. This nutrient pollution has seriously damaged streams in every town in the Haw River watershed, as well as Jordan Lake itself. These new rules will help clean up the water in the Haw River and the creeks where we live, as well as in Jordan Lake.

To quote the Haw River Assembly, an organization dedicated to making sure that the people of the state care for the Jordan Lake watershed, "Jordan Lake and 25 creeks and sections of the Haw River that feed it have become so polluted that they had to be listed on the Federal 'Impaired Waters' list. This listing and an earlier state law, the 1997 Clean Water Responsibility Act, mandate that the lake be cleaned up by reducing nutrients –the nitrogen and phosphorus that have 'overfertilized' the lake. Algae blooms and even fish kills in the lake and upstream show that we're running out of time. And cleanup efforts have already lagged 10 years behind schedule because of disputes over who's responsible and how to get the lake cleaned up."

It is the responsibility of the state to enact new rules for Jordan Lake and its watershed, and the rules need to be strong enough to make a significant difference as soon as possible. We should require that wastewater treatment plants upstream from the lake reduce nitrogen by 2011. The proposed rules would allow water treatment plants to wait until 2016 to make the needed reductions in nitrogen - and that's far too slow. The Lake is already impaired – it can't wait until 2016 for less nitrogen pollution. We need stronger rules, and we need them now.

Sincerely,
Jerome and Katherine Seaton
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