

7/12/07

I AM RITA SPINA, A CITIZEN OF CHATHAM COUNTY, THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF CHATHAM CITIZENS FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNITIES, AND SOMEONE WHO DRINKS WATER FROM JORDAN LAKE EVERY DAY AND RENTS PONTOON BOATS ON JORDAN LAKE ALMOST EVERY SUMMER FOR RECREATION. I LIVE AT 12 MATCHWOOD IN PITTSBORO.

I GREW UP LIVING ALONG THE HUDSON RIVER IN NEW YORK STATE, AND LIVED ABOARD A BOAT FOR 5 YEARS ON A TRIBUTARY OF LONG ISLAND SOUND. THE AREAS AROUND ME - ALL WATER-GREW WITH DEVELOPMENT AND INCREASED DISCHARGES OF SANITARY WASTE FROM TREATMENT PLANTS. ALONG WITH OTHER INDUSTRIAL POLLUTANTS, PCB'S DISCHARGED UPSTREAM ALONG THE RIVER AND WERE PROLIFERATED FROM ONE SITE TO ANOTHER. THE HUE AND CRY FROM THE PEOPLE AND NEIGHBORHOODS FOR MAJOR CLEAN UP BECAME A CLARION CALL TO COUNTY AND STATE POLITICIANS. THE CRESCENDO BECAME DEAFENING...why?

BECAUSE WE, THE CITIZENS, REALIZED WE WERE PAYING THE PRICE FOR WHAT WAS HAPPENING. THERE WAS NO PRICE FOR THE POLLUTERS. GRADUALLY EMPIRE WAS TOO OVERWHELMED AND BECAME AFRAID OF LOSING THEIR SEATS AND THEIR HONOR, AND THE EFFORT WAS PUT FORTH TO SALVAGE THE HUDSON RIVER AND OTHER WATERWAYS. RIVER WATCHERS WERE FOUND TO PATROL THE RIVER. THEY DID THEIR JOBS. WE THE CITIZENS WON.

THE HUDSON RIVER WAS RECOVERED AND NOW THE FISH HAVE REBOUNDED AND ARE EDIBLE, AND IT IS SAFE TO DRINK FROM YOUR TAP, AND RECREATION CONTINUES. *And NY grows! and grows!*

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IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THIS NUTRIENT REDUCTION EFFORT FOR JORDAN LAKE IS A "DROP IN THE BUCKET" IN COMPARISON. BUT THIS IS THE START FOR ALL OF THOSE IN OUR GOVERNMENTS TO REALIZE WHILE WE ARE BEING THREATENED BY THE NUTRIENTS IN OUR WATER AND PAYING MORE AND MORE FOR IT AS THE NEED FOR "BETTER SEWAGE TREATMENT" INCREASES, THAT YOU ARE ONLY BEGINING TO FEEL THE HEAT OF OUR DEMANDS . YOU MUST MOVE UPSTREAM AND PLACE CONDITIONS FOR RETROFIT AND PENALTIES ON THOSE WHO ARE THE PRODUCERS OF THE MESS. AND THIS CANNOT YET AGAIN BE DELAYED FROM 2011 TO 2016.

WATER IS ONE OF THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE AND AS THE CONCEPT OF EMPIRE PERVALES AROUND US, WE ALREADY KNOW THAT IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, IT WILL BECOME A SCARCITY THAT PEOPLE WILL FIGHT OVER. WE CAN'T GET NEW WATER FROM NEW SOURCES. WE CAN, HOWEVER, GET NEW SEATS AND JOBS FOR OUR POWER BASE. CITIZENS HAVE POWER... THIS IS A CLARION CALL, AND WE ARE NOW AWARE WE CAN USE IT ON THIS VITAL ISSUE.

There is an Election in 2008.

Rita K. Quinn, PhD

Subject: Jordan Lake input from 7/12/07 Hearing
From: "Rita Spina" <rkspina@mindspring.com>
Date: Sat, 15 Sep 2007 10:39:47 -0400
To: <Jason.T.Robinson@ncmail.net>

As per your request, a copy of my words during the July 12th hearing.

I am Rita Spina, a citizen of Chatham County, the Vice - President of Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities, and someone who drinks water from Jordan Lake every day and rents pontoon boats on Jordan Lake almost every summer for recreation. I live at 12 Matchwood in Pittsboro.

I grew up living along the Hudson River in New York state. and lived aboard a boat for 5 years on a tributary of Long Island Sound. The areas around me - all water - grew with development and increased discharges of sanitary waste from treatment plants. Along with other industrial pollutants, PCBs discharged upstream along the river were proliferated from one site to another. The hue and cry from the people and neighborhoods for major clean up became a clarion call to county and state politicians. The crescendo became deafening...why?

Because we, the citizens, realized we were paying the price for what was happening. There was no price for the polluters. Gradually EMPIRE was too overwhelmed and became afraid of losing their seats and their honor, and the effort was put forth to salvage the Hudson River and other waterways. River watchers were found to patrol the river. They did their jobs. We the citizens won.

The Hudson River was recovered and now the fish have rebounded and are edible, and it is safe to drink from your tap, and recreation continues.

It seems to me that this nutrient reduction effort for Jordan Lake is a "DROP IN THE BUCKET" in comparison but this is the start for all of those in our governments to realize while we are being threatened by the nutrients in our water and paying more and more for it as the need for "BETTER SEWAGE TREATMENT" increases., that you are only beginning to feel the heat of our demands. You must move upstream and place conditions for retrofit and penalties on those who are the producers of the mess. And this cannot yet again be delayed from 2011 to 2016.

Water is one of the necessities of life and as the concept of EMPIRE prevails around us, we already know that in the not too distant future, it will become a scarcity that people will fight over. We can't get new water from new sources. We can, however, get new seats and jobs for our power base. Citizens have power. This is a CLARION CALL, and we are now aware we can use it on this vital issue.

There is an Election in 2008!!

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