



Rockingham County

Governmental Center

371 NC 65, Suite 206 • P.O. Box 206

Wentworth, N.C. 27375-0206

Telephone: (336) 342-8101 • Fax: (336) 342-8105

Thomas B. Robinson
County Manager

July 17, 2007

Dr. David H. Moreau, Chairman
NC Environmental Management Commission
Dept. of City Planning UNC-CH CB 3140
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Dear Mr. Moreau:

Rockingham County would like to go on record as opposing the Jordan Lake Rules as presently proposed. The Board of Commissioners has adopted the enclosed Resolution expressing the County's points of opposition. The County would further like to go on record as supporting the City of Reidsville's position and points of concern as well. I am enclosing a copy of the Mayor of Reidsville's letter to you on this subject.

Please understand that our opposition is not against clean water, but against unreasonable regulations which are based on faulty assumptions that do not address the major sources of water pollution in the basin.

Sincerely,

Thomas B. Robinson

North Carolina
Rockingham County

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING NORTH CAROLINA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
COMMISSION TO RECONSIDER ADOPTING
JORDAN LAKE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT RULES**

WHEREAS, the rules will provide the State a mechanism to enforce stricter watershed rules that will affect all local governments in the Haw River sub basin including Rockingham County, and;

WHEREAS, the rules will require the entire Jordan Lake watershed to be classified as a critical water supply watershed. This will impose larger lot sizes and lower densities, potentially driving up the cost of residential development, and;

WHEREAS, the rules will require retrofitting existing development and imposing higher standards on new development that will significantly drive up costs necessary for compliance including higher water and sewer rates for local citizens, and;

WHEREAS, Rockingham County is designated both as an economically distressed – Tier 1 County by the State of North Carolina Department of Commerce, and as an Economically Distressed County by the United States Economic Development Administration, and;

WHEREAS, the costs for implementing the rules are unfairly burdened on point sources, and modeling data has shown that the overwhelming majority of nutrient pollution in Jordan Lake results from non-point sources including agriculture, forestry, and residential, and;

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Division of Water Quality warned of heavy pollution before Jordan Lake was constructed and the original benefit cost study for Jordan Lake ignored the costs of cleaning up the watershed, and;

WHEREAS, the citizens in the Jordan Lake Watershed are being asked to adhere to higher standards of development without proof that these standards will substantially improve water quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners requests the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission reconsider adopting the Jordan Lake Nutrient Management Rules. We further resolve that strong consideration be given to the inequitable burden for compliance on point sources of nutrient pollution, the cost impacts on local citizens, and other reasonable options or strategies that may help in mitigating the Jordan Lake nutrient problem.

We further ask that reasonable water quality improvement measures be required of all contributors of water pollution and that these regulations be statewide in their application as water quality is an issue not only in Jordan Lake but in the entire state. Everyone should be required to abide by the same rules in order to not create an economic disadvantage for development in our region.

This 7th day of May, 2007.

Harold A. Bass
Harold A. Bass, Chairman

Rockingham County Board of Commissioners

Pamela M. Robertson
Pamela M. Robertson, MMC
Clerk to the Board

