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Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8529

July 12, 2007

Rich Gannon
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Water Quality, Planning Section
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699- 1617

Dear Mr. Gannon,

Jordon Lake, polluted by excess nutrients, is subject to algae blooms and fish kills – serving less well as a site for recreation, habitat for wildlife, and source for drinking water for the people of the Triangle. The new rules proposed for the lake will address all of the sources of nitrogen and phosphorus, as well as residences, industries, and agriculture.


I support the major goals of these rules, but strongly urge that nitrogen reductions from the wastewater treatment plants should begin in 2011, as originally recommended, instead of in 2016.

It is urgent that we aggressively stop further pollution of Jordon Lake. More than one million North Carolinians live in the watershed, and many of the surrounding communities use it as a major source of their drinking water. Many cities have worked hard to improve their wastewater treatment – with significant phosphorus reductions scheduled to take effect by 2009.

In addition, I support placing controls on polluted runoff from existing developments. Scientific models show that Jordon Lake will never be healthy unless runoff from current developments is reduced. These controls consist of various sizes of biological and engineered filters which slow down the flow of rain water, filter out suspended soil, and allow natural processes to clean the water before it reaches a stream. They are able to reduce the amount of nutrients, as well as other pollutants, flowing into the Lake.

The Environmental Management Commission is urged to approve strong new rules for the Jordon without delay.

Sincerely,


Emanuel Stein