

Keith H. Weatherly  
Mayor

**TOWN OF APEX**  
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October 18, 2006

The Honorable Michael F. Easley  
Governor  
State of North Carolina  
State Capitol Building  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Governor Easley:

As you are well aware, the Town of Apex has experienced one of the largest hazardous materials fires in North Carolina history. The citizens of Apex and their elected officials are in an urgent crisis, due to the fire at Environmental Quality (EQ).

The State, Federal, and County response and assistance to Apex during the fire and its immediate aftermath were outstanding. However, we have considerable needs now for follow-up, assessment, and clean up. Yesterday, we convened a meeting of State, County and local officials. While it was not directly stated that budgetary concerns were having an undue influence over whether or not to conduct extensive sampling downwind of the fire, we have the impression this is the case. To their credit, NC DENR Assistant Secretary Robin Smith and other State and county officials attended our public meeting last night. They observed wide-spread concern and fear within our community regarding the dangerous materials that may have been deposited on school yards, play grounds, personal and business property as well as other public gathering places.

As you know, EQ had a similar fire at their Romulus, Michigan plant. We understand that Michigan officials, in retrospect, realize that extensive testing of water, air, and soils should have been conducted. The concerns of Apex citizens will not be satisfied unless they are certain that adequate testing by an independent entity such as the State has been conducted. It is not acceptable that EQ provide the testing and analysis. The public must be assured that there is no conflict of interest in the testing phase.

Governor Easley, we are asking you to direct whatever funds and resources are necessary to NC DENR and to NC DHHS' Division of Public Health to provide the testing and analysis to assuage public concerns. In addition, we strongly believe the State of North Carolina should pursue restitution from EQ for the full costs of the investigation, assessment, and clean up. We urge the appointment of a crisis team with real authority to operate across departmental lines to manage the state response to this disaster, including a full-scale public information campaign to fully inform citizens of the State's response. While we appreciate your recent appointment of a task force to review the siting of future hazardous waste facilities, we need your help now to deal with the immediate health and safety concerns of our mutual citizens. Please contact me at your earliest convenience to inform me of what resources you might provide the citizens of Apex in this regard. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss these matters of great importance.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith H. Weatherly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "y" at the end.

Keith H. Weatherly  
Mayor