



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
STATE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING  
16 W. Jones Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-1030

June 29, 2012

The Honorable Beverly Perdue, Governor  
State of North Carolina  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Dear Governor Perdue:

North Carolina's water resources, from Jordan Lake and Falls Lake to the Deep River, to our vast supplies of groundwater, are critical for our quality of life and our economy. They provide places to boat, fish, and swim, and clean water for our citizens to drink. They attract new residents and help fuel our tourist economy. We, a sampling of legislators opposed to two bills that could place these prized waters at risk, write to urge you to veto Senate Bills B20 and 382.

Senate Bill 820, sponsored by Senator Bob Rucho, would legalize hydraulic fracturing and create an industry-influenced new commission to develop regulations governing the process. We recognize that you, like many of us, are not categorically opposed to hydraulic fracturing. Instead, acknowledging the evidence that the practice has contaminated water supplies, your Executive Order 118 set a simple bar for shale gas legislation: it must at least implement the recommendations of the DENR shale gas report finalized May 1. Senate Bill 820 falls far short of this standard, especially when it comes to ensuring the safety of our water resources. We urge you to veto Senate Bill 820 and call instead for legislation that more closely matches the cautious approach to hydraulic fracturing you have laid out in your Executive Order.

Senate Bill 382 poses a particular threat to Jordan Lake, the popular drinking water reservoir that attracts more than a million visitors each year. The upper ends of the lake routinely violate state and federal water quality standards. The federal Clean Water Act and the Clean Water Responsibility Act of 1997—which became law thanks to your leadership—both require that the lake be restored to health.

In 2009, you signed compromise legislation requiring all sources of pollution—existing development, wastewater treatment plants, and new development—to do their part to restore Jordan Lake and its tributaries. House Bill 239 capped a multi-year stakeholder process and ultimately passed this chamber with a vote of 108 to 9. Senate Bill 382 unravels that compromise by delaying for two years the new development portion of the cleanup plan for Jordan Lake. What’s more, it inappropriately places the thumb on the scales in favor of a controversial project in Durham. 751 South, as proposed, could have serious implications for water quality in Jordan Lake. To make matters worse, Senate Bill 382 has not been debated by any policy committee, and has extensive unknown consequences for the rights of local governments as well as for the future of Jordan Lake.

From the creation of the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, to the Clean Water Responsibility Act of 1997, to standing up against the majority party’s anti-clean water budget last year, we appreciate your leadership in protecting the state’s water resources and our quality of life. Please lead again by vetoing these legislative proposals that threaten our state’s waters.

Sincerely,

Representative Pricey Harrison  
Representative Darren Jackson  
Representative Susi Hamilton  
Representative Angela Bryant  
Representative Annie Mobley  
Representative Martha Alexander  
Representative Jennifer Weiss  
Representative Patsy Kever  
Representative Joe Tolson  
Representative Michael Wray  
Representative Rick Glazier  
Representative Alice Bordsen  
Representative Susan Fisher  
Representative Henry M. Michaux Jr.  
Representative Diane Parfitt  
Representative Deborah K. Ross  
Representative Ken Goodmon