

June 19, 2011

Governor Beverly Perdue  
Office of the Governor  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Perdue:

We write to you as conservation and environmental organizations that work in communities across North Carolina to protect the clean air, clean water and special environment that sets our state apart - from the Outer Banks to the ridges and valleys of the western counties.

As you know, the 2011 session of the NC General Assembly has carried out a relentless assault on the environment. The legislature has attacked environmental safeguards, land conservation, financial incentives for wise management of our natural heritage and even environmental education. We appreciate your veto of the short-sighted FY2011-2012 budget, with its disproportionate and unnecessary cuts to environmental programs. We are grateful for your call for legislators to respect North Carolina's human and natural environments as a foundation for the state's economic future.

**Additional assaults on our air, water and special places have been rushed through in the past week – bills that reverse North Carolina's unique commitment to the environment that has made the state one of the best places in the country to live and do business.** With the legislative session having adjourned, we ask now for your continued leadership in vetoing S781, S709 and S110.

- *Clean water, healthy air.* **S781** isn't the improvement to the state's rule-making that North Carolinians want or need. It doesn't make the state's safeguards work better. Instead, like the short-sighted budget you vetoed, **it handcuffs our state's ability to protect its own air and water – and then even goes so far as to turn that role over to Washington, D.C.** The General Assembly spent months getting public comments, and an independent analysis of these comments found that North Carolina citizens overwhelmingly support keeping or strengthening the state's environmental safeguards, by over four to one.
- *Our special environment at risk.* **S709** puts at risk the engine of North Carolina's thriving coastal tourism economy, in search of elusive offshore drilling revenues. In addition, it will bring hydraulic fracking to North Carolina, exposing our special environment to dramatic new groundwater pollution. Worst of all, it sets exactly the wrong course for our energy future.
- *Our coastal heritage.* Your record of commitment to coastal protection speaks for itself. **S110** ends the decades old ban on hardened structures on the coast – that has helped shape our thriving coastal economy. Vetoing this bill would clear the field for pragmatic solutions that help our communities retain their economic vitality.

We are grateful for your leadership in keeping North Carolina an exceptional place we are proud to call home.

Sincerely,

Peter Raabe, NC Conservation Director  
American Rivers

Heather Starck, Executive Director and Vice  
President  
Audubon North Carolina

Kemp Burdette, Cape Fear RIVERKEEPER  
Cape Fear River Watch

David Merryman, Catawba RIVERKEEPER  
Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation

Burwell Ware, Coordinator  
Citizen Action for Responsible Roads

Frances Parks, Chair  
Citizens for a Safe Environment

Danna Smith, Executive Director  
Dogwood Alliance

Robin Jacobs, Executive Director  
Eno River Association

Elizabeth Ouzts, State Director  
Environment North Carolina

Jane Preyer, Director  
Environmental Defense Fund, NC Office

David Weintraub, Executive Director  
Environmental and Conservation Organization

Kathleen Hundley, President  
Friends of the Rocky River

Gary Wein, Executive Director  
Highlands Cashiers Land Trust

Mary M. Martorella, Chair  
League of Women Voters of Wake County

George Santucci, Executive Director  
National Committee for the New River

Joe McDonald, President  
NC Alliance for Transportation Reform

Todd Miller, Executive Director  
NC Coastal Federation

Brian Buzby, Executive Director  
NC Conservation Network

Gary Grant, Director  
NC Environmental Justice Network

Dr. Kathy Shea, Director  
NC Interfaith Power & Light

Carrie Clark, Executive Director  
NC League of Conservation Voters

Molly Diggins, State Director  
NC Sierra Club

Alissa Bierma, Upper Neuse RIVERKEEPER  
Larry Baldwin, Lower Neuse RIVERKEEPER  
Neuse Riverkeeper Foundation

Tim Gestwicki, Executive Director  
North Carolina Wildlife Federation

Heather Jacobs Deck, Pamlico-Tar RIVERKEEPER  
Pamlico-Tar River Foundation

Allie Sheffield, President  
PenderWatch & Conservancy

Derb Carter, Director, Carolinas Office  
Southern Environmental Law Center

Fawn Pattison, Executive Director  
Toxic Free North Carolina

Christine Ellis, Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER  
Winyah Rivers Foundation

Donna Lisenby, Watauga RIVERKEEPER

Julie Mayfield, Executive Director  
Western North Carolina Alliance

Tess Sanders, Executive Director  
White Oak-New Riverkeeper Alliance

Dean Naujoks, Yadkin RIVERKEEPER  
Yadkin Riverkeeper