



BOONE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Serving the Heart of the High Country

To: Jonathan Jordon, NC State Representative
Dan Soucek, NC State Senator

June 11, 2014

The importance of water cannot be understated. Just as water is necessary for our physical health, so water is critical to our community's economic health. Water is vital for the expansion of current business and future attraction of business to the Boone area. Limited water availability translates into limited business expansion, and creates limited new job opportunities for our residents and the generations to come.

It's not just about Boone. Boone's water supply directly impacts the interconnects with Appalachian State University and the Town of Blowing Rock. Future development along 321 South between Boone and Blowing Rock, and along the 421 East corridor will be stymied without the availability of water.

The New River Project addresses this critical need for Boone and the greater Watauga County. While true that slowing economic growth combined with conservation efforts have slowed demand over the past few years, a project of this nature should be viewed from a longer term horizon. Over the next half century, the users of the area's water system are projected to double, therefore, driving a need for water that conservation alone will not offset.

The New River Project recommendation was arrived at post an engineering review of 27 possible water source options. It was determined to be the most economically feasible option including options that would provide less available capacity. The project has completed all environmental impact studies which concluded that neither water quality nor flow on the New River would be negatively affected, as the water removal from the river would amount to 4M gallons per day extracted from the historical flows ranging from 42M-62M gallons. Furthermore, much of the water will be returned to the New River under strict health and environmental guidelines.

We appreciate that there remains a number of issues to address in bringing a project of this nature to fruition; however, it is a project that is needed to support the long term economic vitality of the region. Therefore, we the undersigned encourage your support in moving this project forward to completion. Your support will make a significant positive impact on those you represent.

Asking for your consideration,

Jason Triplett, Board Chair Mike Holzworth, Government Chair Dan Meyer, President/CEO

