

September 24, 2019

Ms. Sarah G. Zambon
Assistant Attorney General
North Carolina Department of Justice

Dear Ms. Zambon:

As the elected Board of County Commissioners representing Durham County, North Carolina residents, we are sharing this letter to communicate our strong support for the County's application for the Environmental Enhancement Grant Program.

Durham County's Strategic Plan identifies one of our key goals as Environmental Stewardship and Community Prosperity, with specific objectives to improve water quality, change behaviors to achieve environmental quality, and protect open space and preserve rural character. The proposed project meets all these objectives by providing more information on water quality concerns, identifying opportunities for land conservation or water quality improvement projects, and generating educational materials. Additionally, the proposed project will also assist in community prosperity and health by protecting key public water supplies. The watershed management planning is intended in a watershed where very little previous planning has occurred but is significant in that it feeds two sources of local drinking water in Lake Michie (City of Durham) and Falls Lake (City of Raleigh). The watershed is also mostly rural but is likely to be subject to increasing development pressures as Durham continues to grow, so proper planning and preservation is key to protecting its natural resources.

Durham County is also subject to the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy. As such, the County will be tasked with developing methods for reducing nutrient loading in the Falls Lake Watershed, of which the project area is a part. Watershed planning is the first step in this process and the proposed project will get the County off on the right foot.

Durham County prides itself on our ongoing commitment and efforts to protect and improve the environment. It is our earnest hope that you will strongly consider the County's application for this grant program knowing that the funded efforts will have a lasting effect on water quality in Durham.

Sincerely,

Wendy Jacobs, Chair
Durham County Board of Commissioners