

**RESOLUTION OF THE SAMPSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OPPOSING
THE PROPOSED INTERBASIN TRANSFER BY THE TOWN OF FUQUAY-VARINA**

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear River Basin is a vital natural resource for Sampson County, sustaining our \$2.1 billion agricultural economy, our public drinking water supplies, and the ecological health of our region; and

WHEREAS, Sampson County's agricultural sector relies on a baseline of approximately 11 million gallons per day to maintain livestock health, a critical requirement that is directly threatened by the permanent removal of water flow during severe drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Fuquay-Varina has requested authorization to permanently transfer massive volumes of water out of the Cape Fear River Basin without returning it, a proposal that relies on a 100% loss to the source basin; and

WHEREAS, the Sampson County Board of Commissioners finds that this proposal creates an unfair burden by allowing a rapidly growing, wealthier municipality to solve its water needs at the expense of a diverse, rural neighbor that relies on the river for its livelihood; and

WHEREAS, reducing the flow of the river inherently reduces its ability to dilute pollutants, potentially increasing concentrations of substances like PFAS and nutrients, which shifts the burden of cleaner water costs onto downstream taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes it is fundamentally unreasonable to prioritize municipal cost savings in one county over water security and agricultural viability in another; and

WHEREAS, the Board is opposed to any transfer that relies on a "Cost-Shifting" model, where the environmental debt of growth is paid by downstream communities rather than the growing municipality itself;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sampson County Board of Commissioners does hereby:

1. **Formally Oppose** the Town of Fuquay-Varina's Interbasin Transfer request as currently presented, as it represents a permanent depletion of our region's resources;
2. **Urge** the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission to DENY any permit that results in a net loss of water to the Cape Fear River Basin;

3. **Declare** the Board's position that the only reasonable alternative is one that adheres to the principle of "Basin Neutrality," ensuring that water withdrawn from the basin is responsibly returned to protect downstream users;
4. **Call For** strict, enforceable safeguards in any future agreement to ensure water quality is protected and withdrawal limits are never exceeded; and
5. **Direct** the County Manager to transmit this resolution to the State and all affected stakeholders as the official position of Sampson County.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of February, 2026.

ATTEST:

C. Allen McLamb
Chairman, Sampson County
Board of Commissioners

Stephanie P. Fulton
Clerk to the Board