RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO INVEST STATE RESOURCES NEEDED TO PROTECT DRINKING WATER SOURCES

WHEREAS, the majority of Brunswick County’s drinking water supply comes from the Cape Fear River, which is a source capable of meeting the raw water supply needs both now and in the future for hundreds of thousands of residents in southeastern North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in June 2017, Brunswick County learned that Chemours, an affiliate company formed by DuPont, was discharging a chemical known as GenX (used in the manufacture of Teflon and other non-stick products) into the Cape Fear River some 70 miles upstream of the County’s water intake; and

WHEREAS, GenX is not filtered out by standard water treatment methods; and

WHEREAS, there are hundreds of emerging chemical contaminants for which regulatory safety levels are not yet established and the impact of which on human health and the environment is undetermined; and

WHEREAS, prevention of harmful discharges is paramount to the preservation of clean drinking water sources; and

WHEREAS, on July 24, 2017 Governor Roy Cooper met in Wilmington with local officials and the public and stressed the need for more state experts to work on protecting North Carolina’s water; and

WHEREAS, Governor Cooper announced that when the legislature returns in August, he will advocate for legislation with specific requests to the General Assembly for enhanced staffing and funding to handle water safety; and

WHEREAS, the N.C. Senate has submitted a list of questions in response to Governor Cooper’s funding request.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners strongly encourages all parties at the state level to avoid turning the issue of water quality into a political football.
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners does hereby request that:

1) Governor Cooper and his administration be open-minded about feedback provided by the N.C. General Assembly in response to his funding request; and
2) The North Carolina General Assembly be open-minded about supporting reasonable pieces of Governor Cooper’s request for additional funding and resources at DEQ and DHHS to increase water safety.

This the 21st day of August, 2017.

Frank L. Williams, Chair
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Andrea White, Clerk