

Durham Says "Sue Us"! Outraged Citizens Start Fund for Jordan Lake Protest Suit

The Durham Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) are leaving signers of the Jordan Lake boundary protest petition no recourse but to sue in order to get justice.

Background:

As you know, HRA and SELC organized a zoning protest petition that was signed by 24 landowner in the affected boundary change area near Jordan Lake. The petition exceeded the minimum required , but was deemed invalid by the Durham Planning Department. The BOCC then voted on October 13 to approve the lake boundary change (that clears the way for a massive new development project to be built in what had been a protected watershed zone). SELC and HRA found that the Planning Department had made errors in counting properties in the petition and the Planning Department now agrees that the petition is valid. A valid protest petition means that the BOCC vote to approve the boundary change needs a "super-majority" 4-1 vote to pass, which it did not have. Instead of admitting this mistake and acknowledging that the boundary should not be changed, the BOCC accepted the county lawyer's advice to defend that vote and decision - telling the petition signers to take them to court if they don't like it.

Durham activists have begun a fund to pay the legal fees for individual petition signers who are willing to be plaintiffs in a suit that would uphold the protest petition and stop the lake boundary change. **The lawsuit must be filed by December 11th**. This decision will affect everyone who cares about Jordan Lake - for drinking water and recreations.

Here is information about the citizen protest petition suit fund and how you can donate to it (and in the meantime HRA and SELC are continuing the legal battle as intervenors in the lawsuit the developers brought against Durham County-

- Write a check (put 'Jordan Lake Protest Petition Suit' in the memo) to "[Ragsdale Liggett Trust Account](#)" and mailing it to Ragsdale Liggett, PLLC, Post Office Box 31507, Raleigh 27622
- Or send funds through Paypal by going to: <http://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=p/ema/index-outside> and enter this email address: mmr121570@yahoo.com

You will receive a written receipt.

For more information contact:

Melissa Rooney, Ph.D.
301 Spring Garden Drive
Durham, NC 27713
mmr121570@yahoo.com

