

Watauga Citizens for Local Control

A chapter of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

November 13, 2014

Nathan Miller, Chairman
Watauga County Board of Commissioners
814 West King Street, Suite 205
Boone, North Carolina 28607

Dear Chairman Miller and members of the Commission:

On behalf of the Watauga Citizens for Local Control I write to request that the Watauga County Board of Commissioners adapt a 1500 foot setback between polluting industries and residential dwellings, commercial buildings and churches.

I also wish to thank you for your consideration regarding the High Impact Land Use Moratorium, commonly referred to as Polluting Industries Moratorium. Community meetings between the Planning Board and residents offered many individuals the opportunity to voice their opinions and to gain insight into the Planning Board's possible recommendations. The overwhelming consensus of residents in attendance at these meetings was in favor of a HILU Moratorium which would ultimately lead to strengthened county ordinances. As you know, the moratorium would allow the county time to consider the citizens' request for the same protections that were lost due to the NC General Assembly's ratification of S.L. 2014-33, "An Act Providing that the Town of Boone Shall Not Exercise the Powers of Extraterritorial Jurisdiction."

Citizen input into the HILU moratorium continues to be an important factor in setting the parameters of such an important directive; therefore Watauga Citizens for Local Control hereby requests that the Watauga County Board of Commissioners adopt a 1500 foot setback between high impact industries and residential dwellings, commercial buildings and churches. Similar setbacks have been incorporated into other counties' high impact land use ordinances and have withstood legal challenges.

The citizens of Watauga deserve to live in a healthy, peaceful environment. We respectfully request more than a cursory consideration of minimum setbacks. Your attention and time invested in the welfare of Watauga County is greatly appreciated. Thank you for serving your county.

Sincerely,

Annette Reeves

Annette Reeves
Watauga Citizens for Local Control
420 Locust Hill Road
Boone, NC 28607