

September 26, 2007

Guilford County Board of Commissioners  
PO Box 3427  
Greensboro, NC 27402

Dear Commissioners,

It is the opinion of the Rockingham County Tourism Development Authority that the proposed 500-600 lot golf community proposed by Bluegreen Corporation of Florida would greatly inhibit efforts to provide recreational and education facilities as well as the jobs and community economic development provided by the new Haw River State Park.

In 2006 the Rockingham and Guilford County Boards of Commissioners signed agreements to protect the land within 500 feet of the Haw River in order to protect the River and surrounding wetlands for present and future generations. This proposed development is not consistent with that agreement.

The positive impacts of the Haw River State Park, both economically and environmentally, are of far greater benefit to Rockingham County and, in fact, the Piedmont Triad, than a 500-600 home development that will strain infrastructure and require significant investment of local dollars in roads, water, and educational facilities.

Of greatest significance, however, is the proposed drawdown of water from the headwaters of the Haw for irrigation of the development golf course as well as the proposed treatment plant which will change water quality all along the Haw River. Water is a resource that is becoming more precious by the day. To drain 100,000 gallons per day will strain these headwaters to the point of their obliteration.

It is also worth noting that, at present, tourism is the second largest industry in the state and provides thousands of jobs to local residents. Rockingham County continues to position itself well as a recreation destination through development of its rivers, hiking trails, and bicycle routes. Both the Haw River and Mayo River State Parks are key pieces of this strategy.

Please remember that, though this development may seem attractive in the short term, preservation of the Haw River State Park and the open space that surrounds it is of far greater economic importance in the long term, both to Rockingham County and the entire region.

On behalf of the Rockingham County Tourism Development Authority Board of Directors I appreciate your consideration. Please feel free to contact me through the TDA's office at 336-342-8367 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Fletcher Waynick, Chair  
Rockingham County Tourism Development Authority

