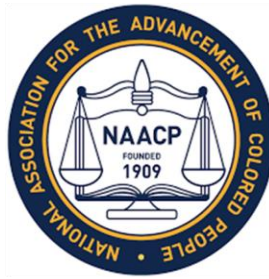


Carl L. Parker, President
1st Vice Bernest Hewett



Anne S. Parker, Secretary
Assistant Jerlyn McMillan

January 24, 2019

The Honorable Richard Burr
The Honorable Thom Tillis
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
and
The Honorable David Rouzer
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Brunswick County, NC - Health, social, and economic impacts resulting from chemical discharges from Chemours and others in our Cape Fear River drinking water.

Dear Senator Burr, Senator Tillis and Congressman Rouzer,

As President of the Brunswick County Branch of the NAACP, I am writing this letter to you because we believe that protecting our drinking water resources from pollution is a basic human right and vital necessity for a healthy and productive society. Unfortunately, the chemicals that Chemours and others have dumped into our primary drinking water source, the Cape Fear River, now jeopardizes that human right. Regrettably, the real tragedy here in our county will be the challenge of the high costs of treatment associated with making our river water drinkable again.

We believe that making our water drinkable again is a noble and absolutely necessary effort on behalf of our Brunswick County elected leaders. While we laud our County's effort to clean up Chemours' contamination, the cost to our residents will be high and for some, insurmountable. We believe that the state-of-the-art reverse osmosis plant is desperately needed. Sadly, higher water service rates will have a disproportional impact on our marginalized groups and individuals, such as those among us living in poverty including the disabled, pregnant or lactating women, veterans, homeless people, and residents of unincorporated areas of our county. Already we are seeing growing numbers of stressed families reaching for help from agencies like Brunswick Family Assistance. Raising our water rates is not a sustainable solution to cleaning up the pollution caused by those that make large profits from abusing our critical drinking water resource. Sustainability is giving us our water back as clean as or cleaner than it was given to them in the first place.

“Forward Together, Not One Step Back”

Please rise up with our sisters and brothers of our Branch along with all those who live in our county to support legislation and appropriations that will help to mitigate the cost of cleaning up the pollution in our drinking water. Your support will directly aid all people of color here in our community whether their color be black, white, yellow, red or brown.

As our representative in Washington, we ask that you deepen your engagement with our County's effort as we face this challenge to provide safe, contaminant free and affordable water to all in our county, rich or poor, old or young, healthy or disabled, our businesses, medical facilities, and the children in our schools.

Environmental Justice is defined by the EPA as "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies." They further explain "Fair treatment means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies." The pollution caused by Chemours and others represents "a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences" falling on the backs of the nearly 60,000 people who are at or below the federal poverty line in our tri-county area. This is an untenable situation that needs our country's immediate aid to resolve.

We need your help! We need your action!

Congressional legislation and funding to improve the affordability of our drinking water will have a lasting and positive impact for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Carl Parker, President
NAACP - Brunswick County Branch #5452
P.O. Box 364
Supply, NC 28462
910-619-4974



Charles Warren, Chairman
Environmental and Climate Justice Committee
NAACP - Brunswick County Branch #5452

Copy to:

Honorable Dan Kildee, PFAS Task Force Co-Chair, US House of Representatives
Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick, PFAS Task Force Co-Chair, US House of Representatives
Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, President, North Carolina NAACP
Mr. Derrick Johnson, President, NAACP
Ms. Deborah Maxwell, New Hanover Branch NAACP
Honorable State Representative Deb Butler, District 18, State of North Carolina
Honorable State Representative Frank Iler, District 17, State of North Carolina
Honorable State Representative Ted Davis, Jr., District 19, State of North Carolina
Honorable State Representative Holly Grange, District 20, State of North Carolina
Honorable State Representative Carson Smith, District 16, State of North Carolina
Honorable Acting Administrator USEPA Andrew Wheeler, US Environmental Protection Agency
Lieutenant General Todd Semonite, Chief of Engineers, Headquarters, US Army Corps of Engineers
The Honorable Roy Cooper, Governor of North Carolina
Mr. Geoff Gisler, Senior Attorney, Southern Environmental Law Center
Mr. Kemp Burdette, Riverkeeper, Cape Fear River Watch
Ms. Janet Hoy, Co-President, League of Women Voters of North Carolina
Mr. Frank Williams, Chairman, Brunswick County Board of Commissioners
Mr. Jonathan Barfield, Jr, Chairman, New Hanover County Board of Commissioners
Mr. George Brown, Chairman, Pender County Board of Commissioners
Ms. Naeema Muhammad, Co-Director, North Carolina Environmental Justice Network
Mr. Michael Regan, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
Mr. Jim Flechtner, Executive Director, Cape Fear Public Utility Authority
Mr. Don Betz, Executive Director, Lower Cape Fear Water & Sewer Authority
Mr. Jeff Gerken, Chairman, H2GO Brunswick Regional Water and Sewer
Honorable Mayor Brenda Bozeman, Town of Leland
Honorable Mayor Alan Holden, Town of Holden Beach
Ms. Carrie Moffett, BHA Executive Director, Village of Bald Head Island
Honorable Mayor Eulis Willis, Town of Navassa
Honorable Mayor Cin Brochure, Town of Oak Island
Honorable Mayor Walter Eccard, Town of Shallotte
Honorable Mayor J.V. Dove, City of Southport
Honorable Mayor James A. Knox, Town of Northwest
Ms. Molly Diggins, State Director, Sierra Club
Mr. William Irvin, President, American Rivers
Mr. John Adams, Co-founder NRDC, National Resources Defense Council
Mr. Fred Krupp, President, Environmental Defense Fund