

Sample Emails/Letters to Elected Officials

The Ask

- Ask the Governor to request that the NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) restore the [50-year Sunset Clause to Mining Permit No 92-10](#) for the existing Wake Stone Corporation rock mine near William B. Umstead State Park at its Harrison Avenue entrance in Cary, NC (Reedy Creek Park Entrance)
- Ask the Governor to DENY any new permit applications for a new quarry on the Odd Fellows Tract (a public property next to Umstead State Park)

Tips

- We suggest looking through these sample letters, but use your own words
- Be specific in your ask about reinstating the 50-year Sunset Clause and denying the new mining permit for the Odd Fellows Tract
- Include a personal story on your experience with the Odd Fellows Tract, Umstead State Park, East Coast Greenway and/or the forested lands in the Triangle
- Share what preserving these public lands mean to you personally, for our local community and future generations

Honorable Governor Roy Cooper
North Carolina Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Cooper,

I am writing you today requesting your assistance to require DEQ to "reinstate" the 50-year sunset clause for the Wake Stone quarry between I-40 and Umstead State Park.

I also request you DENY any permit for a new quarry pit on the Odd Fellows Tract. A private business should not be allowed to destroy and profit from publicly owned lands, when the land is so valuable for the people of North Carolina.

Adding a new, fourth rock quarry near the RDU airport does NOT benefit the people of the Wake and Durham counties.

When you look at the financials for the Wake Stone quarry expansion, RDU airport gets virtually nothing and recent developments for security fencing further reduces RDU's income.

When you look at the environmental impact, the negative impact to the environment from security fencing, rock quarry, and diesel truck emissions far surpass the impact of hiking/biking trails.

Please review the issues related to protecting our public lands and request DEQ to reinstate the 50-year sunset clause in the mining permit for the current Wake Stone quarry at Harrison Avenue.

Thank you for time, consideration, and service.

Sincerely,

Honorable Governor Roy Cooper
North Carolina Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Cooper,

I am a long time Wake County resident and one of the reasons that I originally decided to relocate here was because of the diverse recreation opportunities that were available in the Triangle region. Upon arrival, I quickly found Umstead State Park and fell in love with it. Since then I have spent so much time there and know the park so well that I am now leading hikes there for several outdoor recreation organizations.

I am writing this letter to urge you to protect Umstead State Park from a damaging new quarry on the park's southwest corner by reinstating the sunset clause for the existing Wake Stone quarry located at the southern entrance to the park. The sunset clause in Wake Stone's original DEQ permit stated that quarrying (mining) operations were to end in the current location within 50 years. If the sunset clause were to be reinstated it would remove the economic viability of the new quarry as the old one would still be required to process the newly mined material from the new pit.

So you might ask what happened to the original sunset clause? Here is a little of the history as I understand it. As you might imagine there was a HUGE fight in 1980 against the existing quarry as being a detrimental and incompatible use right next to a very popular state park. Unfortunately, the park lost and the quarry won. DEQ denied the permit, but the Mining Commissioner asked a permit be issued with extra conditions. The extra conditions in the DEQ permit contained the 50 year sunset clause which would eventually put an end the existing quarry.

Over the intervening years Wake Stone's DEQ permit was renewed/updated no fewer than 8 times. Each time Wake Stone signed the permit WITH the sunset clause intact. Fast forward to when Wake Stone asked the DEQ staff to remove the sunset clause. Your DEQ staff did this with NO public notice or notice to YOUR State Park. This time with their eye on the potential Odd Fellows quarry site, Wake Stone argued that the original sunset clause (that they had agreed to and signed multiple times) was a "typographical error" and should be removed. So in a back room in the dark of night the sunset clause was removed with absolutely ZERO public knowledge, input, or debate.

I am hereby asking you to right this travesty of injustice and use your power as governor to direct DEQ to reinstate the original sunset clause as it was intended.

Umstead State Park is a true treasure of the Triangle and must be protected and even expanded where feasible. The Odd Fellows tract would make a fine addition to the park's southwestern boundary and a great asset to local citizens. You can get rocks for the growing Triangle region from just about anywhere. Umstead State Park and adjacent public land NEED and truly DESERVE to be protected for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Honorable Governor Roy Cooper
North Carolina Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Cooper,

I'm writing with a strong concern about the proposed new rock quarry on land adjacent to Umstead State Park, as well as a concern about the existing Wake Stone quarry which has operated for 40 years. The current Wake Stone quarry has become much more visible and noisy over the past couple of years, and air quality at surrounding parks has taken a hit. My son's cross-country team runs at Umstead almost every day in the summer and fall -- in fact, several schools have cross-country & track teams that work out at Umstead. Air quality around Umstead is already impacted by increasing traffic on I-40 & NC-70. A new quarry would negatively impact air quality and water quality even further, in a multitude of ways -- because of the additional blasting, loss of vital natural stream & wildlife buffers, and loss of tree canopy. Added clear-cutting in this corridor would also adversely impact citizens' quality of life because an important noise buffer would be destroyed.

I recently learned that the mining permit for the existing WakeStone quarry had a 50-year sunset clause that was recently deleted from the permit. Why? Can the sunset clause be

reinstated? Do citizens have a right to weigh-in on mining permits and permit revisions? It is important for the residents of our state to have a voice in how this land is used. Why should certain companies be granted special exemptions & deletions of permitting clauses? Additionally, why should a private company be granted a special lease of public land for its own private profit, without public input?

Thus, I'm writing to ask that the DEQ reinstate the 50-year sunset clause of the permit for the existing Wake Stone quarry, and also that the DEQ deny any new permits for mining operations on any lands adjacent to Umstead State Park.

Please protect our public lands.

Sincerely,