



North Carolina General Assembly
Senate

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COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
JUDICIARY
PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT AND AGING
REDISTRICTING AND ELECTIONS

May 9, 2022

Governor Roy Cooper
North Carolina Office of the Governor

Dear Governor Cooper:

Two months ago, I joined residents of Wake County in celebrating the denial of Wake Stone's permit to build a new quarry adjacent to the William B. Umstead State Park. Seven years into this fight, Wake County residents are still engaged. I've read thousands of public comments supporting the permit denial, and I believe the denial was the right decision. The proposed heavy industrial mining operation would have significant adverse environmental effects. With Wake Stone's decision to appeal the permit denial, we must continue to protect the Umstead State Park.

Moreover, we should reinstate the Sunset Clause provision that would ensure existing mining and blasting operations cease by 2031. Without this provision in place, Wake Stone could continue quarry operations with no time limit, exposing Umstead State Park to decades of continued blasting and noise. Wake Stone is proposing a limited (only 25 feet) forested buffer and berm around the perimeter of the new quarry pit. Such a limited buffer is not enough to protect the beauty of the Old Reedy Creek recreation corridor.

I urge you and your administration to continue to oppose the Wake Stone permit. The decision by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to deny Wake Stone's permit was the correct decision. No compromise is possible with Wake Stone on this issue. If the proposed quarry goes forward, the natural beauty of Umstead State Park and its surrounding areas will be severely diminished, and there will be significant adverse environmental effects.

Sincerely,

Wiley Nickel
Senator, District 16

