BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE ENACTMENT OF HOUSE BILL 850 (S.L. 2025-74) REGARDING INTERBASIN TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, the Catawba River Basin is a vital resource for the residents and businesses of Burke County and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, the recent request by the City of Charlotte to transfer an additional 30 million gallons of water daily from the Catawba River Basin could limit the region's ability to grow economically, agriculturally, and financially; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's interbasin transfer statute, G.S. 143-215.22L, governs the certification of significant transfers of water between river basins, and governments surrounding the Catawba River Basin have a significant interest in how those transfers are evaluated; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 850 was enacted as Session Law 2025-74 with overwhelming bipartisan support in both chambers of the North Carolina General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Session Law 2025-74 imposes a temporary moratorium on the issuance of certificates for significant new or increased water transfers between river basins; and

WHEREAS, Session Law 2025-74 also directs the North Carolina Collaboratory at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to study the statutory process, including the adequacy of environmental review, incentives for resilience measures that reduce the size of transfers needed, and other matters necessary to increase fairness and effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, this approach allows for careful, evidence-based review of North Carolina's interbasin transfer laws before further significant transfers are approved, while protecting the interests of Burke County and other Catawba River Basin communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Burke County Board of Commissioners expresses its sincere appreciation to the members of the North Carolina General Assembly who supported House Bill 850, and further recognizes Burke County's legislative delegation, Senator Warren Daniel and Representative Hugh Blackwell, for their representation of Burke County. The Board also extends its gratitude for the General Assembly's consideration of the interests of Western Piedmont communities, including future growth, economic development, water treatment, and water supply in the Catawba River Basin.

Adopted the 19th day of October, 2026.

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Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Burke County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Morgan Buchanan
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners