

April 22, 2024

Secretary Biser  
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality  
217 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603

**RE: NC DEQ's Draft Proposed 02B Surface Water Standards and Draft Proposed 02L Groundwater Standards**

Dear Secretary Biser,

On behalf of the NC Chamber and the statewide business community, I write to you today regarding the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's (NC DEQ) Draft Proposed 02B Surface Water Standards and Draft Proposed 02L Groundwater Standards.

The NC Chamber is the state's largest broad-based business advocacy organization, representing 29 industry segments and the interests of job creators across the state. Protecting North Carolinians and our environment while ensuring we can continue to grow at the speed of business is a fundamental balance the NC Chamber advocates for daily.

The businesses in our state, including those in manufacturing, have a proven track record of supporting North Carolina's economic vitality and doing so responsibly. It is important that we do not hastily pass regulations without fully accounting for both the positive benefits and potential negative impacts proposed rules would have on the state and its business community.

Before establishing a numeric standard, we request that further research is done to understand how requirements established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) intersect with state statutes and an estimate of the cost to local government and the business community to comply with these proposed regulations. Further, in conformance with the Hardison amendment, NC DEQ should align their scope of consideration to be consistent with the six standards proposed by the USEPA on 10 April 2024.

We are asking for time to better understand the impacts of the proposed standards and how our state and the business community will meet them.

Our members are great companies that employ great North Carolinians, and we can protect both the environment and the people of our state while fostering economic growth and maintaining North Carolina's status as the number one state for business.

On behalf of the business community, we urge NC DEQ and the NC Environmental Management Commission to delay any action until we receive appropriate studies and have greater clarity on the benefits and cost of regulation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary J. Salamido". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being the most prominent.

Gary J. Salamido  
President and CEO

CC John D. Solomon  
Christopher Duggan  
Yvonne C. Bailey  
Tim Baumgartner  
Charles Carter  
Marion Deerhake  
Michael Ellison  
Jacqueline MacDonald Gibson  
Steve P. Keen  
Dr. Herbert Kim Lyerly  
Joseph Reardon  
Robin Smith  
Kevin Tweedy  
Elizabeth Jill Weese  
Bill Yarborough