

# Monroe County Board of Commissioners

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Kim Stokes, Public Works Director



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[www.monroecoga.org](http://www.monroecoga.org)

September 11, 2024

Barnesville-Lamar County Industrial Development Authority  
Ms. Kathy Oxford-Executive Director  
100 Commerce Place  
Barnesville, GA. 30204

Butts County Development Authority  
Bob White, CEcD-Executive Director  
P.O. Box 379  
Jackson, GA 30233

**Dear Members of the Lamar County Development Authority,**

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you on behalf of Monroe County to express our concerns regarding the upcoming development project you are planning, which may have potential impacts on the watershed north of High Falls Lake.

As you are aware, High Falls Dam is a significant structure within our community, and it is imperative to ensure its integrity and the safety of our residents. Given that the dam is already quite old and has a history of failures, we strongly urge you to delay your development plans for the property on High Falls Lake pending a hydrology study of the Towaliga River watershed north of the dam as well as updated flood plan to assess any potential impacts the development might have on this critical watershed.

Additionally, we request that a comprehensive evaluation of High Falls Lake Dam (structural analysis, hydraulic modeling, and geotechnical investigations) that accounts for factors identified in the hydrology study and updated flood plan. These should focus on evaluating the potential effects of the development activity on the dam's stability and overall condition. The influx of added impervious surface from the development could potentially alter the flood plain characteristics along the watershed, leading to a rise in the flood plain. This possibility raises serious concerns for the residents living along these state waters who might face adverse effects due to such changes.

To ensure transparency and impartiality in the evaluation process, we kindly ask that third-party reports be provided. These reports should verify that the planned development will not result in adverse impacts on the safety and well-being of our citizens and the environment of Monroe County.

It is our desire for continued positive relations and collaboration between our counties while safeguarding our community's interests. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to seeing your due diligence and commitment reflected in these studies and reports.

For complete transparency, this letter is also being shared with Governor Brian Kemp's office, State Representative Clint Crowe's office, State Senator John Kennedy's office, and the Butts County, GA County Commissioners.

Thank you for your consideration and prompt attention to these requests. We await your response and stand ready to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Tapley', is positioned to the right of the word 'Sincerely,'.

Greg Tapley  
Chairman

cc: Governor Brian Kemp  
206 Washington Street  
Suite 203, State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA. 30334

State Representative Clint Crowe  
Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
Atlanta, GA. 30334

State Senator John Kennedy's Office  
321 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA. 30334

Butts County Board of Commissioners  
Chairman Joe Brown, Jr.  
625 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Jackson, GA. 30233

Lamar County Board of Commissioners  
Chairman Ryan Traylor  
790 Veterans Parkway  
Barnesville, GA. 30204