



CITY OF KINSTON

Office of the Mayor

207 E. King Street | Kinston, NC 28501

June 19, 2017

Dear Governor Cooper,

Thank you for visiting Kinston this past week to discuss relief efforts with Hurricane Matthew and flood prevention efforts moving forward. Hurricane Fran had an estimated \$2.4B cost to North Carolina, Hurricane Floyd exceeded \$3B, and as of last week your office estimated almost \$5B for Hurricane Matthew.

At only 36 years old I have witnessed four of the worst floods the Neuse River has ever had with an estimated \$10B loss to our state's economy. With the exceptional growth in the Triangle and towns along the Neuse River Basin, one can only surmise that flooding will continue to be more frequent and catastrophic. The April 2017 showers which produced the fourth highest Neuse River crest in Kinston is a prime example.

Kinston, Goldsboro, and La Grange have passed a resolution calling for "the implementation of flood control measures" along the Neuse River Basin and your office has a copy. The counties of Lenoir and Wayne have also unanimously supported the resolution, along with the US 70 Corridor Commission, which represents Carteret, Craven, Johnston, Lenoir, Wayne and Jones counties.

Flood prevention must be a top priority for your administration, the NC General Assembly and our federal delegation. In fact, in a recent meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers, it was made clear to us that flood prevention along the Neuse River Basin needs to be one of your office's top three federal priorities.

As the City of Kinston and the coalition that we're building begin working on next steps, we'd like to propose a meeting with NCDEQ, NCDEM and Mr. Dempsey Benton, Director of Hurricane Recovery.

Furthermore, as promised in our meeting last week, we will provide your office a copy of the 1965 Army Corps of Engineers study which called for the construction of Falls Lake Dam, the need for a Wilson's Mills Dam, and other flood control measures along the Neuse River Basin.

We cannot stress enough the need for an all-hands-on-deck approach to flood prevention measures along the Neuse River Basin and a bi-partisan state and federal coalition to implement those measures.

We'd like to propose having the meeting with NCDEQ, NCDDEM, and Director Benton the week of July 10th either in Raleigh or Kinston. Please let us know if this is possible. I can be reached by cell phone at 252.468.2206 or by email at mayorbjmurphy@gmail.com.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "BJ Murphy", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

BJ Murphy