



# NEW HANOVER COUNTY

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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March 25, 2024

The Honorable David Rouzer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2333 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rouzer:

I am writing to express support for a request by Cape Fear Public Utility Authority (CFPUA) for federal Community Project Funding to connect residents in the Oakley neighborhood in northern New Hanover County to CFPUA's drinking water system.

The families in the Oakley neighborhood are not served by the CFPUA water distribution system and currently rely on private wells for their drinking water. As you know, contamination by per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) compounds has been detected in groundwater wells throughout New Hanover County, including in Oakley. The PFAS compounds detected in these wells are typically PFOA and PFOS which are not eligible for relief by Chemours under the consent order with the State of North Carolina.

Additionally, a number of these drinking water wells have failed and require replacement at a cost upwards of \$10,000 each. Such an unexpected expense likely is out of reach for families in the neighborhood, which lies in a census block group where the median household income is \$36,149. In 2022, CFPUA sought American Rescue Plan Act funding from the state to extend water service to Oakley, but that application was unsuccessful.

The health and welfare of all members of our community of paramount importance to me and my fellow New Hanover County Commissioners. I urge you to support CFPUA's application for Community Project Funding for this project to provide a permanent solution to Oakley and bring access to clean drinking water to these families.

Sincerely,

William E. Rivenbark, Chair  
New Hanover County Board of Commissioners