

BELHAVEN Chamber

Web Site: BelhavenChamber.com

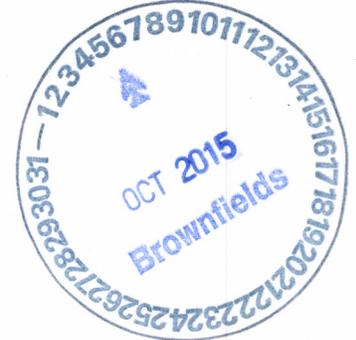
BELHAVEN Community CHAMBER of Commerce

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September 30, 2015

NC Brownfields Program
ATTN: Bruce Nicholson, Program Director
NC Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
1646 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1646



Dear Mr. Nicholson:

I am writing your office today in support of the proposed reuse of the former mill site in Belhaven, NC for public water access as well as light industry. The proposed acceptance of this property by Beaufort County would be a benefit to the health and quality of life of the Belhaven community. In addition it would be a much needed boost to our economy. This beautiful site along Pungo Creek has been abandoned for several decades now, and it is wonderful to see realistic plans to reuse it.

Neglected brownfields contribute to declining property values and quality of life in our small town and potentially pose risks to human safety and environmental health. Beaufort County's proposed reuse would provide opportunity for launching recreational motorized boats, but also canoes and kayaks. This would encourage more people to visit Belhaven for water sports, thus infusing our economy. Future development of a boardwalk system would provide up to a one-mile walking trail loop, with more that ¼ mile of waterfront that can be utilized for recreational and subsistence fishing.

In conclusion, the Board of Directors of the Belhaven Community Chamber of Commerce are fully supportive of the proposed reuse of the Cooperage Tract in Belhaven and we have confidence in Beaufort County's ability to manage the site in a sustainable way.

Sincerely,

Diana Lambeth
Executive Director
Belhaven Community Chamber of Commerce
belhaveninfo@gotricounty.com
252-943-3770