

RESOLUTION NO. 26-01-012

SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONERS BRAD BOWERS AND JEFF JOPLING

A RESOLUTION OF THE BLOUNT COUNTY COMMISSION OPPOSING THE REMOVAL OF PEERY’S MILL DAM

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has entered into an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to demolish Peery’s Mill Dam and Rockford Mill Dam; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of residents of Walland and Townsend oppose the removal of Peery’s Mill Dam; and

WHEREAS, the removal of Peery’s Mill Dam will not fully restore river health due to the continued existence of the Townsend Mill Dam, which itself is a recognized historical landmark; and

WHEREAS, limited core sampling of the riverbed has been conducted, and insufficient testing raises concerns regarding the potential release of toxins associated with the former Walland tannery that operated in the early 1900s; and

WHEREAS, any release of such toxins could compromise downstream drinking water sources relied upon by residents of Blount County; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission is concerned that this action represents federal overreach without adequate consideration of local elected officials or community input; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission finds it necessary to formally express the concerns of its constituents regarding public safety, environmental risk, and historical preservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislative Body of Blount County, Tennessee, that the Commission formally opposes the demolition and removal of Peery’s Mill Dam; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Blount County Legislative Body urges the Army Corps of Engineers, TDEC, and TWRA to suspend all demolition activities until comprehensive environmental testing is conducted throughout the affected river areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Blount County Legislative Body asserts that the Army Corps of Engineers shall bear full responsibility for any environmental damage or contamination of drinking water sources resulting from the removal of Peery’s Mill Dam; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Army Corps of Engineers at both the state and federal levels, as well as to appropriate state and federal elected officials.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, **20**.

CERTIFICATION OF ACTION	ATTEST
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Commission Chairman	County Clerk
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County Mayor	Date
 <input type="checkbox"/> Approved	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vetoed	