

Waterkeeper Alliance
50 S. Buckhout, Suite 302
Irvington, NY 10533

Re Broad, Saluda and Congaree River Waterkeeper

December 8, 2008

To whom it may concern,

American Whitewater is proud to join the River Alliance, City of Columbia and a large group of concerned citizens and organizations in support of a new Waterkeeper position for portions of the Broad River, Lower Scenic Saluda River and the Congaree River. These rivers are located in central South Carolina and are home to a rich biodiversity and a spectacular range of recreational opportunities. They also suffer from a diverse range of impacts including flow regulation, dam-induced water quality impacts, and municipal water pollution.

The City of Columbia has offered seed money for the creation of a Waterkeeper program in their watershed. American Whitewater has full confidence that the City is offering this support only with the best of intentions: to protect and restore the rivers that flow through their community. These rivers significantly contribute to the quality of life of City residents that paddle, fish, swim, or that just like taking walks along the water.

While American Whitewater and several other groups are committed to protecting and restoring the Broad, Saluda, and Congaree rivers, we feel that the addition of a Waterkeeper program to the river advocacy community would provide invaluable support to the diverse array of projects and issues occurring in the watershed. We hope that you will support the creation of a Waterkeeper program for the Broad, Saluda, and Congaree rivers.

Sincerely,



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