



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
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McMaster Proposes S.C.-N.C. Compact to Resolve Catawba Water Dispute

***Without Compact South Carolina to ask Supreme Court to
Block Transfer***

Columbia, S.C. – In an effort to head off a massive legal battle between the two states over the proposed diversion of water from the Catawba River, Attorney General Henry McMaster today proposed that North and South Carolina form an interstate compact to resolve the Catawba dispute and future water issues.

In a letter to North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper, McMaster made the proposal for an interstate compact, which would require approval by the General Assemblies of both states, and final approval by the United States Congress.

McMaster stated that without such an agreement, South Carolina will be forced to file a lawsuit asking the United States Supreme Court to block North Carolina's plans for the Catawba River.

McMaster outlined South Carolina's opposition to the proposed interbasin water transfer (IBT), and specifically questioned the authority of the N.C. Environmental Management Commission to decide such issues with limited or no input at all from South Carolina. That commission is scheduled to issue its decision on the IBT matter on January 10, 2007.

McMaster has previously announced the state's official legal opposition to a proposed IBT from the North Carolina towns of Concord and Kannapolis. The IBT would remove vast quantities of water from the Catawba River basin upstream from South Carolina, and return it, once used, into the Pee Dee River Basin.

The implications for communities downstream in South Carolina have sparked concern from local, state and federal officials. Both Governor Mark Sanford and the S.C. Legislature have expressed their opposition to the plan, as have U.S. Representatives John Spratt and James Clyburn.

[View McMaster's letter to North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper.](#)

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