

## **COUNTY OF WATAUGA**

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING REFORM

**WHEREAS**, the current state redistricting process creates a conflict of interest as lawmakers are effectively selecting their own constituents; and

WHEREAS, the redistricting process should be conducted with transparency, in an open door manner with opportunities for public dialogue and feedback, rather than behind closed doors; and

**WHEREAS**, legislative incumbents generally construct districts which are not compact and split communities of interest; and

WHEREAS, important principles including the protections of the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 and respect for neighborhoods and counties should be clearly listed for a Commission to abide by; and

WHEREAS, voters are more likely to participate when they believe that their votes will count and that they have a reasonable chance of electing candidates who represent their interests; and

WHEREAS, elected officials are more responsive to constituents when voters have a choice of candidate, thereby increasing accountability and serving the best interest of the voters.

**NOW, THEREFORE** we do hereby resolve that North Carolina's General Assembly should establish an independent redistricting process that includes the principles of diversity, along with partisan balance and geography in all future redistricting. We also resolve that the North Carolina General Assembly should pass House Bill 200, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NONPARTISAN REDISTRICTING PROCESS.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to Senator Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore and Representative Tim Moore, Speaker.

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**ADOPTED** this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_.

John Welch, Chairman
Watauga County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Anita J. Fogle, Clerk to the Board