

Edwards, Andrew

From: Sue Self [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2022 4:26 PM
To: Edwards, Andrew
Subject: Reclassify Waters

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Dear Mr Edwards,

My name is Susan Self. I am a SC citizen who lives in Awendaw SC. I am joining other neighbors and citizens in Awendaw to plea for reclassifying certain waterways to obtain enhanced protection hazards and harms from future development in the Marion Forest. Now more than ever we have to do what we can to protect this precious environment.

Our neighbor, Dr. Charles Mauro, has made a request to you via DHEC that the agency reclassify the Intracoastal Waterway from Venning Creek to Isle of Palms as Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW). As defined by DHEC, Outstanding Resource Waters are waters which are of exceptional recreational or ecological importance or of unusual value. Such waters may include waters in national or state parks or wildlife refuges, such as the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. And waters with the Outstanding Water Resource classification are given greater protection from pollution and other sources of degradation that would damage this unique ecosystem.

We all know, and all government studies show, that Venning Creek, Anderson Creek, Price Inlet and the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) are all connected and the tides push the water from the ICW through these creeks and inlets and out to Bulls Bay and beyond. You may NOT know that Price Inlet, Bulls Bay and Cape Romain Harbor are all already designated as Outstanding Resource Waters. **Logic and DHEC's own rules require that DHEC give this same designation to the ICW from Venning Creek to IOP, affording greater protection to these important waterways that we all love.**

So that is what we are asking DHEC to do, classify this area as Outstanding Resource Waters. **If the Intracoastal Waterway and Sewee get reclassified to ORW it will require local areas and the Town of Awendaw to provide greater protection for these waters and not allow developers and others to pollute and degrade this waterway.**

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- All waters in South Carolina are classified by the Federal Clean Water Act
- This area is connected to areas already classified as ORW. This area is special and deserves our protection. The higher the classification, the greater the protection
- Bulls Bay, Cape Romain Harbor, and Price's inlet are already designated the highest level (Outstanding Resource Water) and share water through daily tides with the ICW
- The Intracoastal Waterway from Venning Creek to Isle of Palms and Sewee Bay are also rated as the cleanest water in the State, based on DHEC Shellfish monitoring programs, but do not have the ORW designation. The ICW in this area should also have the ORW designation
- We want DHEC to reclassify those waters to the highest level, Outstanding Resource Water (ORW)

We know there are big lobbyists groups that are fighting this but why What dp they have to gain. This is much greater than money, [rofit and greed. Please citizens do not thinn this is okay. Please help us to protect the cleanest water and air literally in the country

Sue Self 