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April 19, 2016

Mr. William D. Johnson  
CEO, Tennessee Valley Authority  
400 West Summit Hill Drive  
Knoxville TN 37902

President Johnson:

As you know, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has proposed the removal of all houseboats on Lake Fontana within 20 years. These proposed rules will also ask owners to meet minimum standards around electrical safety, styrofoam use, and waste water management and will require a small fee determined by the size of their houseboat.

Fontana Lake is a major recreational asset and economic engine for Western North Carolina, as evidenced by the over 1,800 houseboats on the lake today. We all want to preserve it for future generations, especially because it's so foundational to the identity and vitality of surrounding Graham and Swain counties. However this proposal moves forward will directly affect hundreds of families and hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayer property.

I ask that any new policy put forth by the TVA fully consider the consequences for the local economy and community life. Furthermore, I ask that any proposal respect the legitimate interests of every stakeholder, whether they are houseboat residents, tourists, employees of local business, or anyone who simply enjoys Fontana Lake. The best ideas will benefit our natural and our regulatory environments alike, making our state a welcoming place for residents and visitors for years to come.

Sincerely,



Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress