



Amherst County Board of Supervisors
County Resolution No. 2021-0002-R

For consideration on February 2, 2021

A RESOLUTION, NO. 2021-0002-R

A resolution, opposing boat landing access fees being implemented by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

Approved as to form and legality by the Amherst County Attorney

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF AMHERST, VIRGINIA:

I. That the Amherst County Board of Supervisors expresses its opposition to boat landing access fees being implemented by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Amherst County Board of Supervisors is committed to advocating for the free and peaceful enjoyment of all of the natural resources in the County and throughout the Commonwealth, especially the rivers, streams and other waterways; and

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of Virginia likewise supports "the use and enjoyment for recreation and adequate public lands, water and other natural resources"; and

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2021, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) will be requiring any person using a DWR-owned or managed facility, including boating access sites, to have a valid Virginia hunting, trapping, or fishing permit, a Restore the Wild membership, an access permit, or current certificate of boat registration issued by DWR to use the facility; and

WHEREAS, the permit process and fee associated with boating access would create an extra barrier for those seeking to enjoy Virginia's rivers and waterways; and

WHEREAS, outfitters have expressed concerns that their needs and concerns were not fully taken into account when implementing the permits and fees for boating access sites and that the new boating access permits and fees are a detriment to tourism; and

WHEREAS, the process to register and pay for a permit is cumbersome and inefficient and creates an undue time burden on the outfitters and other tourism-related businesses and their customers and anyone else seeking to enjoy the waters of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the fee to use the boating access sites is fundamentally regressive in nature, causing greater detriment to the least affluent and casual users who would only occasionally seek some recreational respite in nature; and

WHEREAS, the funds from the fees charged for boating access are anticipated to be disproportionately larger than the resources dedicated to the maintenance and construction of boating access sites; and

WHEREAS, this proposal will encourage people to circumvent the fees by using unauthorized boat access points on private property, with the attendant environmental damage, unsafe roadside parking, and personal exposure to unexpected swift currents upon entry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF AMHERST COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

That the Amherst County Board of Supervisors support the right of Amherst County citizens to access, without a fee, our lakes and rivers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the County's state legislative representatives and the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

II. That this resolution shall be in force and effect upon adoption.


Adopted this 2nd day of February, 2021.



Jennifer R. Moore, Chair
Board of Supervisors of the County of Amherst, Virginia

Member	Vote
Jennifer R. Moore, Chair.....	<u>AYE</u>
David W. Pugh, Jr., Vice-Chair.....	<u>AYE</u>
Tom Martin.....	<u>AYE</u>
L. J. "Jimmy" Ayers, III	<u>AYE</u>
Claudia D. Tucker.....	<u>AYE</u>

ATTEST:



Dean C. Rodgers, Clerk
Board of Supervisors of the County of Amherst, Virginia