



## **The Fayette Alliance**

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### *Executive Director*

Elizabeth Knox van Nagell

Mayor Jim Newberry & Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council  
LFUCG  
101 East Vine Street  
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

January 24, 2008

Dear Mayor Newberry and Council Members,

I am writing to you as the Executive Director of the Fayette Alliance. The Fayette Alliance is a coalition of agricultural, neighborhood, and development interests whose aim is to promote urban and rural vitality in Lexington-Fayette County.

As you know, Councilman Don Blevins is proposing a 48% increase in the sewer user fee in fiscal year 2009, and a 35% increase in fiscal year 2010. These measures will collectively generate an additional \$24.6 million in the dedicated sanitary sewer user fee fund. This money will directly pay for \$130 million in badly needed capital projects over the next four years. They include:

- Replacing the South Elkhorn Pump Station;
- Replacing the North Elkhorn Pump Station;

- Constructing the Diversion Line;
- Installing a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system at the Town Branch and West Hickman treatment plants;
- Replacing equipment, constructing a second independent power source, and implementing an odor control plan at Town Branch and West Hickman treatment plants;
- Taking over the private Blue Sky treatment plant and converting it to locally regulated pump station;
- Completing a countywide sewer system and pump station assessment.

The Alliance supports this proposal, as it is a good faith, accountable first step in addressing the requirements of the EPA consent decree-a legal obligation caused by this community's longstanding failure to adequately address and regulate our sanitary sewer and storm water systems.

Once the Athens of the West, today Lexington is a place where people and livestock have tragically lost their lives in flooded streams; raw sewage and stormwater run-off pollute our creeks and endanger fish, animals, and humans alike; and feces finds itself in household basements, neighborhood parks, and the scenic fields of world famous farms. This condition affects us all-from the downtown business owner and suburban dweller, to the horse and general agricultural farmer.

Therefore, the Alliance respectfully asks that you adopt the increased sewer user fee. While no one wants to shoulder the additional expense, we must do so to restore Lexington's promise of civic progress, public health, and environmental responsibility. Simply put, it is the right thing to do for today, tomorrow, and this great city's future.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Knox van Nagell  
Executive Director