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ATTACHMENT 3

March 28, 2003

Dear Mayor Foy and Members of the Chapel Hill Town Council,

Very soon you will receive from OWASA an updated water conservation ordinance for your review. Collaboratively, the general managers of eight Chapel Hill hotels agree that there is a need for year-round and situational water conservation measures. The proposed conservation ordinance is logical and appropriate, with the exception of the following section:

### III B. Interior Use

**b – “Hotels, motels and other facilities providing sleeping accommodations shall change bed linens only upon request of the customer, or upon customer changeover or every five days for long-term customers.”**

The reasons for our opposition are:

- Member hotels were never formally or informally consulted or informed of the change in this ordinance by OWASA.
- The ordinance doesn't take into account the differing types of lodging establishments within the affected district.
- The ordinance assumes that all laundry is processed within the water district.
- A five day period is excessive and exceeds the industry standard.
- This could be a potential competitive disadvantage in a very weak economy potentially leading to a decrease in occupancy
- Changing bed linen is a fundamental service that we provide to our guests. It does not need governmental regulation.
- This regulation would be virtually unenforceable.

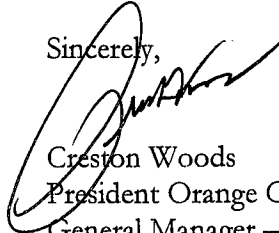
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We offer a non-regulatory water efficiency partnership that we feel would be a win-win solution to this problem:

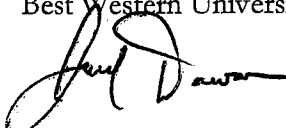
**Orange County Lodging Association members listed below will work with OWASA to adopt a uniform program that will more closely follow the industry "Green Hotel" standards. This "opt-out" program would mean that bed linen would be changed upon check-out, every three days of a multi-day stay or upon guest request. Also, towels that are hung up will not be replaced. Towels on the floor or in the bathtub would be replaced.**


We are available to discuss this solution with you or the OWASA board. Please oppose this section of the year-round water conservation ordinance.

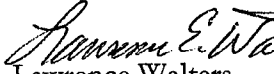
Sincerely,

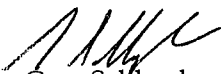
  
Creston Woods  
President Orange County Lodging Association  
General Manager – The Carolina Inn and Paul J. Rizzo Conference Center

Jared Dawson  
General Manager  
Best Western University Inn

  
Mike Amin  
General Manager  
Days Inn

  
Mark Sherburne  
General Manager  
The Siena Hotel

  
Lawrence Walters  
General Manager  
Sheraton Chapel Hill

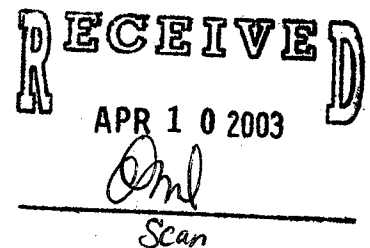
  
Gary Sabbagh  
General Manager  
Hampton Inn

Thomas King  
General Manager  
Holiday Inn Chapel Hill

Cc: Bernadette Pelissier, Chair OWASA Board of Directors

Chapel Hill Carrboro  
**Chamber**  
OF COMMERCE

104 S. ESTES DRIVE • POST OFFICE BOX 2897  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-2897



April 3, 2003

Mayor Kevin Foy and Chapel Hill Town Council  
Town Hall  
306 N. Columbia St.  
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514

Dear Mayor Foy and Council members:

We would like to thank the Chapel Hill Town Council and the board of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority for taking public comment on the proposed changes to the water conservation ordinance.

Several of the Chamber's members gave input to OWASA during its public hearing process, and overall we have heard very favorable comments about the OWASA board's willingness to address concerns by local gardeners and landscapers. As a whole, the water conservation ordinance reflects the needs of our community in preserving and protecting our water supply.

However, the Orange County Lodging Association would like to propose a change to Section III-B of the ordinance governing interior use of OWASA water in hotels and motels. The Chamber supports their proposal.

The ordinance calls for hotels to change bed linens "every five days for long-term customers." The hotel industry's "Green Hotel" standards call for bed linens to be changed every three days for multi-day guests, and local hoteliers feel that the standard proposed in the ordinance is excessive and does not address concerns about how, or how much, water is used.

The Chamber would like to echo the concerns of local hotels and motels, and we would encourage the Town Council, Carrboro Board of Aldermen and Orange County Board of County Commissioners to delete the proposed ordinance language and instead to call for a non-regulatory partnership between OWASA and the Orange County Lodging Association to create and adopt a uniform program that closely follows the hotel industry's "Green Hotel" standards. The "Green Hotel" standards are broader and more comprehensive and would better accomplish our goal of saving water.

If the Chamber can be of assistance in forging this partnership, please let us know. We feel that an educational, cooperative process, such as that proposed by the local hotels, would accomplish more than a statutory requirement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia Knapp".

Virginia Knapp  
Director of External Affairs

cc: Orange Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors

