

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 3, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the University of North Carolina at Pembroke's Old Main Restoration project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of North Carolina at Pembroke located at 1 University Drive, Pembroke, NC 28372. The funding would be used for restoration of Old Main's exterior envelope, including replacing 1970's era windows to restore thermal insulation, replacing brick mortar to maintain the historic brick façade, replacing the columns, all while holding to the National Register of Historic Places and related standards. Other interventions, including specialized HVAC, ductwork, insulation, and security devices will provide improved and increased access to the building and its historical contents while generating significant energy efficiency savings.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Old Main, which houses the American Indian Heritage Center, the Department of Mass Communication, and the Department of American Indian Studies, serves the 60,000 members of the Lumbee Tribe, and is a state tourist destination, attracting more than 15,000 people a year to one of the poorest regions of our state. The restoration of Old Main is intended to benefit the multiple communities living in Robeson County and Southeastern North Carolina. Its revitalization will aid the Town of Pembroke's and Robeson County's efforts to improve the quality of life of a culturally diverse and rich community (41.9% American Indian, 30.1% White alone, 23.8% African American), but one that is also extremely poor in financial, health and other social outcomes.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), and 5305(a)(5)

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

