

April 19, 2024

The Honorable David Rouzer
2333 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rouzer:

I am writing you today to ask for your support for a pending community project funding request for a building renovation, which is crucially needed to preserve an iconic building: Old Main. Located on the University of North Carolina Pembroke's campus, Old Main is also an essential part of Robeson County's history, so it plays an invaluable economic development role in our region.

As a local business owner (Manager of the Holiday Inn Express) and Chairman of the Pembroke Tourism Board, it is easy to recognize the tremendous value that Old Main plays economically and culturally in this region. Old Main is the oldest building on UNCP's campus. It was built in 1923 and was also the first brick building on the university's campus.

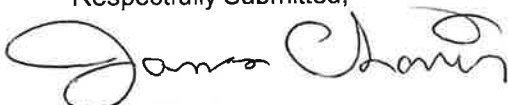
Old Main is on the National Register of Historic Places and houses UNCP's American Indian Heritage Center, as Robeson County is home to more than 60,000 members of the Lumbee Tribe. Regarding economic development, Old Main has become a state tourist attraction, drawing more than 15,000 people a year to this poor region of our state. Therefore, it is important to restore Old Main to pristine condition.

Over the years, time has taken a toll on the condition of Old Main, and it is in dire need of restoration. As a result, it risks losing its ability to draw visitors not only to Pembroke, but it may also stymie emerging economic development and cultural tourism such as Lumber River excursions, Lumbee tribal events, and a host of other events in Southeastern North Carolina.

That is why I respectfully ask for your careful consideration of UNC Pembroke's request for Old Main renovations, which will make the building more accessible to tourists, students, and staff, as well as preserve an important part of Pembroke's history.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important priority for our region and all you do for our state.

Respectfully Submitted,



James Chavis

Owner/Manager of the Holiday Inn Express
Pembroke, N.C.



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Clerk to the Board

April 29, 2024

The Honorable David Rouzer
2333 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rouzer:

I write today to ask your support for a pending community project funding request for a building renovation, which is critically needed to preserve an important piece of Robeson County, North Carolina's history, which also plays an invaluable economic development role in our region.

As Robeson County Manager and member of the UNC System Board of Governors, I can personally attest to the cultural and symbolic importance of the Old Main building on the campus of the University of North Carolina Pembroke (UNCP). Completed in 1923, it was the first brick building on the university's campus, then known as the Cherokee Indian Normal School of Robeson County.

Today, it is on the National Register of Historic Places and houses UNCP's American Indian Heritage Center, as Robeson County is home to more than 60,000 members of the Lumbee Tribe. In terms of economic development, we are proud that Old Main has become a state tourist destination attracting more than 15,000 people a year to one of the poorest regions of our state.

Over time, however, Old Main's exterior has aged such that it is in dire need of restoration and its deteriorating condition is limiting UNCP's ability to accommodate visitors, as well UNC Pembroke students, who attend classes in the building.

That is why I respectfully ask for your careful consideration of UNC Pembroke's request for Old Main renovations, which will make the building more accessible to tourists, students, and staff, as well as preserve an important part of Pembroke's history.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important priority for our region and all you do for our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kellie Hunt Blue".

Kellie Hunt Blue
County Manager