



May 22, 2020

Sarah G. Zambon, Esq.  
Assistant Attorney General  
North Carolina Department of Justice

Re: Support for EEG Grant Proposal of the Little Nine Conservancy, Inc.

The purpose of this letter is to convey support of the North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership (Partnership) for the Little Nine Conservancy, Inc. (LiNC) proposal for funding under the North Carolina Attorney General's 2020 Environmental Enhancement Grants' (EEG) Land Acquisition and Conservation Easements Program.

Our Partnership's mission is to protect and manage, via enhancement and restoration, the longleaf pine ecosystem and associated natural communities of plants and animals. We do this by securing the long-term protection and management of key areas of biological value as well as providing suitable landscape-scale buffers and corridors linking them together. The goal of the LiNC is to acquire a conservation easement on property currently owned by the Southern Pines Elks Lodge 1692 to protect the natural surroundings of a historic golf course and adjoining woodlands.

The protection of this property through a conservation easement will provide benefits for species associated with the longleaf pine ecosystem and given its location at the headwaters of Aberdeen Creek (which flows to Drowning Creek) will also provide benefit to our local water resources. Additionally, if the easement allows for public use then the larger community will benefit by having additional open space to enjoy nature in a setting so close to downtown Southern Pines, North Carolina.

LiNC's EEG grant request presents a unique opportunity to both protect the environment and potentially enhance opportunities for residents to enjoy nature. For these reasons, the Partnership supports this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Ladd Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Susan Ladd Miller  
NCSP Coordinator