



May 15, 2020

Sarah G. Zambon, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
North Carolina Department of Justice
Submitted Via Email: EEG@ncdoj.gov

RE: EEG Grant Proposal of the Little Nine Conservancy, Inc.

Dear Ms. Zambon:

Please accept this correspondence as a Letter of Support from the Town of Southern Pines regarding the proposal for funding under the North Carolina Attorney General's 2020 Environmental Enhancement Grants' Land Acquisitions and Conservation Easements program submitted by the Little Nine Conservancy, Inc. ("LiNC"), a local 501(c)(3) non-profit conservation organization. LiNC proposes to use funds obtained under the EEG program to assist with its purchase of a conservation easement on 100 acres of a 298 acre tract owned by Elks Lodge 1692 at 280 Country Club Circle, Southern Pines in Moore County.

The historic nine-hole golf course (designed by Donald Ross, built in 1906, and now used as one of North Carolina's most challenging cross country course by area high schools), adjoining woods and stream corridor, all encompassed by the proposed conservation easement, lie adjacent to Aberdeen's Ray's Mill Park. Additionally, the property protected by LiNC's conservation easement would supplement an already robust collection of protected natural, agricultural and recreational land either adjoining or near to LiNC's project – Ray's Mill Park, the 64 acre historic McDonald Farm, and the Paint Hill Annex to the Weymouth Woods Nature Preserve.

LiNC's EEG grant request presents a unique opportunity to both protect the environment and enhance/preserve athletic opportunities for student athletes, who use the old golf course for training and competition. Consequently, the Town of Southern Pines urges the EEG program to fund LiNC's grant request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol R. Haney".

Carol R. Haney, Mayor
Town of Southern Pines