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(Final Version)

CALL FOR FULL LOCAL, COUNTY, AND STATE DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT FOR LOVE GROVE SECOND ACCESS

WHEREAS, the historic, pre-civil war community of Love Grove, Wilmington, NC, home to over 100 families, is surrounded on all sides by railroad tracks, creeks, and woods, yet has only one access road in and out, running directly across the railroad tracks; and

WHEREAS, since the 1940's, the tax-paying, law-abiding citizens of Love Grove have complained and petitioned the city council about the need for a second access and the inherent danger to the growing community of the railroad, trains, and hazardous cargo, as exemplified by the many instances of problems, including often unreported stalling, derailments, and spillages; and

WHEREAS, to date, and after multiple false starts with local government and officials -- and in the wake of a 1990's fire that blocked access to Love Grove and prompted an allocation of \$280,000 by the City for a 2nd access that was subsequently taken away -- its citizens have received no 2nd access to address the potential cataclysmic event; and

WHEREAS, these egregious conditions have been exacerbated by the ongoing expansion of a contiguous housing development, Clarendon Park, which is adding more homes and families, and making the need for access an even greater emergent issue; and

WHEREAS, the CRX railroad -- which transports hazardous chemicals across the Love Grove single access road several times a day, and which also has been cited, out of all railroad companies in America, as having the most incidents involving the release of hazardous materials (2013) -- has had multiple delays and an increasing number of accidents, the most dangerous a 64 car cargo derailment that occurred June 28, 2013, wherein 6 flammable tankers carrying Xylene and Methanol were upturned and 300 feet of track destroyed, causing a 24 hour isolation of Love Grove residents; and

WHEREAS, in the event of a full catastrophe -- such as occurred in Mississauga, ON; Casselton, ND; Graniteville, SC; Bladenboro, NC; and Lac-Megantic, QC, in years past, where many people were injured or killed -- the potential damage here in Wilmington would not be contained, but would be spread by air and across ground throughout the city and environs, endangering not just Love Grove residents, but all Wilmington residents, in all precincts;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we of Precincts No. 25 and 29, and in behalf of all citizens of Wilmington, request the full support of the local, county, and state Democratic party officials to enact procedures that will impose mandates for the prompt remedy of this situation, with no further delays; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, with the understanding that a permanent 2nd access road(s) and/or bridge(s) will require preparation and planning, we request from the local, county, and state Democratic party officials full support to ensure immediate construction of top quality, temporary 2nd access road and/or bridge(s) to assure adequate access until permanent fixtures are installed, without further delay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local, county, and state Democratic officials call for total transparency in all meetings, agreements, and contracts, and require the presence of no less than 3 Love Grove residents with full voting rights to ensure the attainment of permanent, adequate 2nd access road(s) and/or bridge(s); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in view of the egregious delays of over 70 years that Love Grove citizens have had to endure this situation, a review board with no local ties or connections be appointed by the local, county, and state Democratic party officials to review and ensure that all activities regarding the permanent installation of a second access road(s) and/or bridge(s), be completed with no further delay, and in a reasonable and timely manner.

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