Board of Commissioners
George R. Brown, Jr., Chairman
Archibald "Fred" McCoy, Vice Chairman
Jaqueline A. (Jackie) Newton
David A. Piepmeyer
J. David Williams, Jr.

PENDER
COUNTY NC
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County Manager
Randell K. Woodruff

County Attorney
Carl W. "Trey" Thurman

June 18, 2018

Federal Railroad Administration
Washington, DC.

Re: **Wilmington Rail Realignment Project**
Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety
Improvements (CRISI).
Wilmington, North Carolina

Dear Sir or Ms.:

This letter is being submitted to strongly indicate the support of Pender County Government for the Wilmington Rail Realignment Project for a Federal DOT grant through the Federal Railroad Administration, for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements program (CRISI).

The purpose of the Rail Realignment Project is to relocate the freight use of the Wilmington beltline rail from the center of the congested heart of the City to the west side of the Cape Fear River through less inhabited areas to provide a direct access from the Port of Wilmington to the CSX Davis Railyard. The new route provides significant new economic development opportunities for shipping from surrounding counties and the Southeast U.S. to the Port of Wilmington.

Relocating the track will eliminate the 'last-mile' delay into the Port and improve the Port's current efficient operations, improve safety of the rail line, relieve road and track conflicts and open-up freight line access to new industrial sites near the City and in nearby rural and small urban areas in four counties. Pender County believes this improvement will be benefit the area tremendously as well as providing new opportunities for the Pender Commerce Park located along US421 just north of Wilmington.

Pender County supports the City of Wilmington's effort to secure funding for the PE/NEPA track of the CRISI grant opportunity so this important and transformative project can move forward benefitting the entire region of Southeastern North Carolina. Enclosed with this letter is a resolution in support of this effort which was passed by the Board of Commissioners this evening. If the County can provide any additional information or supporting materials please feel free to contact us at 910-259-1200.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support!

Respectfully,

George Brown, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE WILMINGTON RAIL REALIGNMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Wilmington Rail Realignment Project is to relocate the freight use of the Wilmington beltline rail from the center of the congested heart of the City to the west side of the Cape Fear River through less inhabited areas to provide a direct access from the Port of Wilmington to the CSX Davis Railyard; and

WHEREAS, The new route provides significant new economic development opportunities for shipping from surrounding counties and the Southeast U.S. to the Port of Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, Relocating the track will eliminate the 'last-mile' delay into the Port and improve the Port's current efficient operations, improve safety of the rail line, relieve road and track conflicts and open up freight line access to new industrial sites near the City and in nearby rural and small urban areas in four counties; and

WHEREAS, Pender County believes this improvement will be beneficial to all of Southeastern NC and may provide new opportunities for the Pender County Industrial Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pender County Board of Commissioners support the City of Wilmington's effort to secure funding for the PE/NEPA track of the CRISI grant opportunity so this important and transformative project can move forward.

Adopted this the 18th day of June, 2018.

George R. Brown, Chairman
Pender County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Melissa Long
Clerk to the Board