November 5, 2015

Mr. Clark Poole, Executive Director  
Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce  
162 N. Main Street  
Rutherfordton, NC  28139

Dear Clark:

My understanding is that you may be working with a specific group and others to evaluate the potential and plausible use of the Sparks property at the intersection of Hwy. 221 and US-74 for development. I am writing you this letter to add the county’s support to the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce for this endeavor.

Based on the data and reports that are currently available to the Chamber and the County regarding the current and projected number of visitors to the Tryon International Equestrian Center, the increase in traffic as a result of the future completion of the US-74 four lane extension around the City of Shelby, which will open up this corridor as a direct route from I-26 to Charlotte and vice versa, the increase in the programming at Isothermal Community College as well as the educational and entertainment options available at the ICC Foundation, the increasing utilization of Hwy. 221 as an access route to the Lake Lure and Chimney Rock Village and State Park attractions, and many other impacting factors, this major intersection now becomes our #1 priority development opportunity. When one looks at the major interstate and highway connections from Atlanta, Knoxville, Charlotte, etc. to points in and around North Carolina, Rutherford County is truly strategically placed “in the center of it all”.

Rutherford County government is excited to be a partner with the Chamber of Commerce and other partners to fully realize the potential of this designated prime development location. Please contact me directly if any additional information or clarification is needed from the county. I remain,

Sincerely,

Steve Garrison  
County Manager

---

County Commissioners  
Bryan A. King, Chairman  
Alan Toney, Vice Chairman  
Michael Benfield  
Eddie Holland  
Greg Lovelace  
Steve Garrison, County Manager  
Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board  
Richard Williams, County Attorney