



March 11, 2026

The Honorable Dr. Greg Murphy
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3415

Dear Congressman Murphy:

On behalf of the Duplin County Board of County Commissioners, I am writing to express our strong support for two critical capital projects that represent our highest infrastructure priorities for Duplin County. These projects are essential investments in public safety, education, and long-term community resilience, and we respectfully seek your support as we pursue federal funding opportunities for both projects.

Our first and highest priority is the renovation and modernization of James Kenan High School, a vital educational facility that serves students and families across our county. We intend to pursue funding opportunities that will allow us to upgrade aging infrastructure, improve safety, and create modern learning environments that better prepare our students for success.

Many areas of the school require significant improvements to ensure the facility meets current educational standards and provides a safe and effective environment for students and teachers. Renovations will support improved classroom space, updated building systems, and enhanced safety features. Investing in James Kenan High School will strengthen educational outcomes and ensure that Duplin County students have access to quality learning facilities that support their academic and career readiness.

Our second priority is the construction of a new Duplin County Public Safety Building, which will support the coordinated operations of our emergency services and public safety personnel. As our county continues to grow and service demands increase, it is imperative that we invest in infrastructure that supports efficient emergency response, effective coordination, and modern operational capabilities.

A new Public Safety Building will provide centralized space for critical public safety functions, enhance interagency collaboration, and improve response capabilities across the county. This facility will strengthen emergency preparedness, support first responders, and ensure Duplin County residents continue to receive dependable and timely public safety services.

Both projects align with federal priorities to strengthen rural infrastructure, expand workforce and educational opportunities, and protect public health and safety. The Duplin County Board of Commissioners is committed to advancing these initiatives and



leveraging every available resource to deliver these important improvements for our citizens.

We respectfully request your continued support as we pursue federal funding opportunities for the renovation of James Kenan High School and the development of a new Duplin County Public Safety Building. We greatly appreciate your leadership and advocacy on behalf of eastern North Carolina communities and look forward to working closely with your office throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Dexter B. Edwards
Chairman
Duplin County Board of County Commissioners



Public Safety

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March 12, 2026

Congressman Greg Murphy, MD
PO Box 1000
Manteo, NC 27954

Dear Congressman Murphy,

I am writing to express my strong support for funding the development of a new Duplin County Public Safety Complex, an essential investment in the safety, preparedness, and resilience of our community and the surrounding region.

As the demand for public safety services continues to grow, it is critical that our infrastructure keeps pace. A state-of-the-art Public Safety Complex will enhance operational efficiency, improve coordination among public safety agencies, and ensure that Duplin County is well prepared to respond effectively to emergencies of all types.

This facility would be designed as a hardened structure capable of withstanding severe weather events such as hurricanes and tornadoes, which regularly impact eastern North Carolina. Maintaining uninterrupted emergency operations during disasters is vital to protecting lives, property, and critical infrastructure. A resilient facility will ensure that emergency response and coordination can continue when the community needs it most.

In addition to strengthening local capabilities, neighboring counties and state and federal partner agencies that operate within Duplin County would also benefit from this complex. By enhancing communication, coordination, and interoperability, the facility would improve our ability to support both local and regional operations. Designed for the future, the complex could serve as a designated relocation site for partner agencies during large-scale disasters, supporting critical Continuity of Operations planning and ensuring the sustained delivery of essential services for years to come.

I believe that investing in Duplin County's Public Safety Complex represents a forward-looking commitment to public safety, operational readiness, and long-term community resilience. I respectfully request your support for funding this important initiative.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Matthew Barwick
Public Safety Director/Fire Marshal