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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 23, 2025

Dear Ebenezer,

As the Chair of the Environmental Stewardship Committee for Mecklenburg County and as someone who knew Rusty Rozzelle as a water quality professional for more than thirty years, I am writing to offer my full support to formally rename the Suttle Avenue LUESA building after him.

I first learned about Rusty's good work with respect to water quality when I worked in healthcare, before I met him in-person. I was there when Rusty was honored with an **Environmental Hero** award from the Blumenthal Foundation in the early nineties. I believe he spent every day for the rest of his life proving that he was a hero for the environment.

For the past 35 years, I attended meetings and worked with Rusty in many different group settings. I think it's important to provide a short list of some of them to show the breadth of his connectedness and impact.

The first that come to mind are:

- Post-Construction Stormwater ordinance development with our six towns and the City of Charlotte
- Catawba Riverkeeper
- Stormwater Advisory Council (SWAC)
- Catawba Wateree Water Management Group
- Citizens Water Academy
- Lake Wylie, Lake Norman and Mountain Island Lake Marine Commissions
- Centralina- Connect Our Future
- Livable Meck- Healthy Environment
- Catawba Lands Conservancy
- Elected officials workshops
- River District
- Palisades
- City of Creeks UNCC
- Brown's Cove, Beaverdam Creek
- Duke Power
- Real Estate & Building Industry Coalition (REBIC)



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- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Catawba Area Plan stakeholder group
- Many community meetings addressing concerns about buffers, stormwater management, sedimentation, flooding, fuel/chemical/sewer spills impacting our waterways, water degradation, erosion control measures, cyanobacteria and invasive species on our lakes, etc.

In the hundreds of meetings where I was present, Rusty was reliably consistent. He was a gifted storyteller, a consensus builder, a highly respected expert, an educator who could explain things at every level to help people understand, an exceptional human being, dedicated to protecting our natural resources, and a real-life hero to me.

Rusty Rozzelle was one of the best people and most committed professionals I have ever known. He was a Mecklenburg County treasure. This is who we should name a building after...after an honorable person like Rusty. He was a lifelong dedicated public servant, who woke up every day for 45 years to face the never-ending challenges of environmental stewardship and a person who did everything that he could to make a positive difference.

We are all beneficiaries of his work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine M. Powell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elaine" being the most prominent.

Elaine Powell  
Mecklenburg County Commissioner, District 1  
Environmental Stewardship Committee, Chair