December, 9 2024

NC General Assembly Leadership:

Re: Senate Bill 382 - A Legislative Coup & Coverup

We come together as residents of North Carolina, to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 382 (SB 382), and the detrimental effects it will have on our communities, our environment, and the future of our state's democracy. We demand that the North Carolina Legislature halt the passage of this bill and engage in a transparent process to provide immediate, tangible relief to Western North Carolina communities that prioritizes the health, safety and humanity of the residents and not the partisan interests and political volleying of this legislative body and the select few entities to which they feel accountable.

SB 382 is a radical step backward for our state that goes totally against the will of the voters of North Carolina. If passed, it would strip power from local government officials and make regressive changes to the courts and election law, leading to the erosion of the state's democracy. This bill was never intended to provide real relief to Western North Carolina. Instead, it was designed to be deliberately misleading. The underhanded set of covert tactics used to introduce the bill is proof of this intentional attempt to undermine the will of the people.

The blatant disregard that this Legislature has for the people of North Carolina was made abundantly clear on Monday, December 2nd when concerned community members were forced to evacuate the NC General Assembly's galleries for exercising their constitutional right to observe the body's activity. However, we the people, will continue to shine a light on the egregious actions of this legislative body and will not stand by while you continue to use Western North Carolinians as pawns in your orchestrated power grab.

Our state's legislative process should be rooted in democracy, transparency, and accountability to the people. It is a betrayal of our people that SB 382 has moved forward without sufficiently addressing the concerns of the very people it pretends to help.

As North Carolina voters, we demand that the North Carolina General Assembly:

1. **Cease and desist** on moving forward with Senate Bill 382;
2. **Provide a plan for real, immediate relief** to the residents of Western North Carolina communities that reflect the needs of those communities; and
3. **Commit to accountability and transparency** in the legislative process, ensuring that our concerns are addressed.

We stand with a broad coalition of organizations calling for meaningful relief for North Carolinians working to rebuild their communities after Hurricane Helene. We will continue amplifying the voices of partners leading on this issue and work alongside them for democracy, accountability, and community-centered recovery.

Signed,