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State Has Ordered Adams Outdoor to Remove Billboard After Illegal Destruction of Protected Dogwoods

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The State of North Carolina has ordered Adams Outdoor Advertising to remove its billboard after the North Carolina Department of Transportation revoked the permit and found that individuals working for the company illegally destroyed protected dogwood trees in Mecklenburg County.

In a November 16 letter, NCDOT said the cutting occurred October 27 on state-owned right of way. The department revoked Outdoor Advertising Permit No. US074 060004. Adams must remove the billboard within 60 days of receiving the notice and may appeal within 30 days of receipt.

“This is why we have asked billboard companies to slow down and talk to neighbors before cutting,” said **Senator Caleb Theodros (D-Mecklenburg)**. “Instead of taking the time to hear from residents and businesses, trees were cut, and NCDOT has now found that protected dogwoods were illegally destroyed. The billboard permit is revoked, but the trees are still gone.”

The Senator’s office previously identified **40 vegetation-removal permits across Mecklenburg County**. Senator Theodros, Sustain Charlotte, residents, and business owners have called for a pause on further cutting until affected neighborhoods are consulted.

“My office is pleased that the state has ordered the billboard removed, but the work is not finished,” Theodros said. “Our next request is simple: pause cutting under the remaining permits, sit down with the people who live and work near these sites, and discuss the impacts before moving forward. We also need to address the damage already done.”

“This is a major victory for the businesses and neighbors who lost a forest buffer that helped protect them from highway noise and air pollution. Sustain Charlotte sounded the alarm, brought people together, and refused to let the destruction go unanswered. We are grateful to Senator Theodros for his leadership and partnership in turning community concerns into action. Now we must secure restoration of this buffer and stronger protections for every neighborhood facing the same threat. Public trees serve a public purpose, and the people who depend on them deserve a voice.”
—Shannon Binns, Founder, Sustain Charlotte

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