

Cleveland County Chamber

State Legislative Agenda

2011

U.S. Highway 74 Shelby By-Pass

Support NCDOT's right-of-way acquisition plan for 2011 and 2012 and urge NCDOT to begin construction of the project in accordance with their five year plan

Water Services

Support the efforts of Upper Cleveland Water Board to acquire permitting from state/federal agencies for the Upper Cleveland reservoir

Sewer Services

Support expansion of sewer services in Cleveland County which will open areas for economic development and improve services to existing business and industry

Highway Trust Fund

Support efforts to leave the Highway Trust Fund intact and prohibit the use of funds for projects other than transportation.

Economic Development Incentives

Support economic development initiatives and incentives that will help bring jobs to North Carolina and will keep our State competitive with other states. These incentives include the following:

- > Continuation of 3-J that retains the machinery and equipment tax credit.
- > Continuation of the J-DIG program.
- > Continue to fund the One North Carolina Fund at a level commensurate with our growth opportunities.
 - > Creation of a travel and tourism-oriented tax credit which would encourage and assist investors to establish significant tourism destinations all across North Carolina.
- > Support additional incentives to attract jobs and allow North Carolina communities to better compete with other states

Education

Recognize the integral role community colleges play in North Carolina's economic development and support the following:

- > Full funding for Customized Training to support new, expanding, and existing business and industry.
- > Full funding for enrollment growth.
- > Enrollment based funding for instructional equipment.
- > Oppose unfunded state mandates on local school districts
- > Support summer funding for developmental Math and English to help students begin the fall semester with the necessary skills to be successful.

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Taxes

Support a reduction in the corporate and personal income tax rates to make us more competitive with surrounding states including the 2011 expiration of the corporate and personal income tax surcharges.

Health Insurance

Support the Healthcare Freedom Protection Act, exempting North Carolinians from the job-killing, liberty-restricting mandates of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Support health insurance initiatives, such as tax credits, that encourage small businesses to provide employee health benefits. OPPOSE any efforts to mandate employers to provide specific benefit coverage under group health plans. Employers are encouraged to offer health care coverage consistent with their ability to afford coverage and to promote good health.

Sales Taxes on Services

Oppose creation of new sales taxes on services and oppose expansion of existing sales taxes on services.

Collective Bargaining for Public Employees

Oppose any and all efforts to require local governments to enter into collective bargaining agreements with their employees.

Oppose North Carolina entering into collective bargaining agreements with its employees.

Right-To-Work Laws

Support North Carolina's right-to-work laws and oppose changing the current laws.

Workers' Compensation Reform

Support legislation to reform the North Carolina Workers' Compensation system to reduce disability findings and open-ended streams of payment, to address the trend in favor of long-term disability findings, to diminish control over these findings on the part of claimants and their legal representatives, and to curtail adoption of rules that limit return-to-work efforts.