

**Cleveland County Chamber
State Legislative Agenda
2008**

U.S. Highway 74 Shelby
By-Pass

Raise the priority of completing the U.S. 74 by-pass around Shelby to allow an earlier completion date for the project.

Water Services

Support legislative and state/federal agency assistance to increase the water supply in Cleveland County (additional reservoir capacity).

Shelby–Cleveland County
Regional Airport
Improvements

Support State funding to assist with local/state matching funds to access \$2,000,000 Federal grant for construction of a new parallel taxiway and terminal at the airport.

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

Restore the “Trust” in the Highway Trust Fund by stopping the transfer of funds to the General Fund and allowing the Highway Trust Fund to be fully utilized for transportation needs.

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 (formerly the William S. Lee Act) that retains the machinery and equipment tax credit.
- Roll forward the J-DIG program for at least two years.
- 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.

North Carolina Community
Colleges Economic
Development Programs

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

- Full funding for training programs including Focused Industrial Training (FIT) and New and Expanding Industry Training (NEIT).
- Full funding for enrollment growth.
- Equity in funding for high demand occupational extension courses.
- Additional funding for instructional equipment.

Corporate Income Tax

Make North Carolina more competitive in attracting and retaining business and industry by reducing the corporate income tax rate to below 6%.

Land for Tomorrow

Encourage legislative support for the "Land for Tomorrow" initiatives.

Health Insurance

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.