

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

**HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MEETING DATE: January 6, 2014

SUBJECT: NCACC Legislative Goals

PRESENTER: Steve Wyatt

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

1. NCACC Legislative Goals Process Memo
2. 2013 NCACC Federal Legislative Priorities
3. 2014 Legislative Goals Proposal Form

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The NCACC is soliciting input and proposals from all counties concerning the most important issues of a statewide nature that impact counties at the federal level, and has invited counties to submit their legislative proposals to the Association. The submission deadline for proposals is Friday, January 10, 2014. A list of the 2013 Federal Legislative Issues, and a description of each, is included for reference.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Should the Board wish to submit any legislative goals to the NCACC, they are requested to direct staff accordingly.

Suggested Motion:

No motion suggested.



December 5, 2013

Dear Chairman,

It is time to gain your input about the 2014 NCACC Federal Legislative Agenda.

Each year the NCACC solicits input and proposals from all counties concerning the most important issues of a statewide nature that impact counties at the federal level. Those suggestions are collected, reviewed and then approved by the NCACC Board of Directors to be used as our 2014 Federal Legislative Agenda. This list of top federal priorities will be presented to our North Carolina Congressional delegation in Washington, DC at the March 2014 NACo Legislative Conference when the NCACC will host our Congressional Delegation Breakfast. (We hope you will be able to attend!)

Submissions of federal legislative issues are due to the NCACC by Friday, January 10, 2014.

The submission form is attached and completed forms can be emailed to kevin.leonard@ncacc.org or sent via U.S. Mail to Kevin Leonard, 215 N. Dawson Street, Raleigh, NC 27603. If you have any questions please call or email Kevin directly at (919) 715-4369 or kevin.leonard@ncacc.org.

Please keep in mind as you and your Board consider your submission, the Board of Directors will be looking to select a slate of priorities that have a statewide impact to our counties. For your information and reference, below is the list of the 2013 NCACC Federal Legislative Priorities.

Again thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to hearing from you. As always, we appreciate the opportunity to be of service and represent your county.

Best regards,

David F. Thompson
Executive Director

DFT/sws

Attachment

cc: County Managers
Clerks to the Board

2013 NCACC FEDERAL ISSUES

Ensure that Budget Reforms and Sequestration Do Not Result In Unfunded Mandates To Counties

- **Description:** North Carolina counties recognize the tremendous financial pressures to reign in federal spending. Counties have cut their budgets and programs significantly over the past four years to manage declining revenues and have suffered cost shifts and funding reductions as well. Congressional consideration of federal budget cuts should include a significant overhaul of program mandates and unnecessary regulations to make sure that federal costs and responsibilities are not shifted to counties.

Protect TANF And Social Services Block Grants

- **Description:** TANF supplemental funds have been made available since the 1996 inception of the TANF welfare reform initiative to level-set TANF federal payments. The TANF basic grant formula over-compensated those states with high welfare family payments. North Carolina was penalized for having a conservative welfare policy with low cash assistance payments, time-limited benefits and an emphasis on work and personal responsibility. To address these formula inequities, the supplemental program was initiated for the 17 states being under-funded by the TANF basic grant formula. Authorization for TANF supplemental grants expired April 2011. N.C.'s share at \$36 million represents 11 percent of total TANF funding. Counties use these federal dollars to provide county child protective services and for work supports such as childcare and job training.

Support Remote Sales Tax Collection

- **Description:** North Carolina and its counties, like most other states, are losing hundreds of millions of dollars annually in sales tax revenues through untaxed remote sales. State estimates project an N.C. loss of nearly \$122 million annually, with losses growing faster than the overall retail tax base. In 2011, national Internet sales increased 16 percent over 2010 while total retail sales increased at half that rate. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that states cannot compel remote vendors to collect state sales taxes unless a company has a physical presence in the state – a nexus. Untaxed remote sales also disadvantage local “main street” merchants that must charge and collect sales taxes while remote sellers are not required to do so. While opponents of remote sales tax collection unfairly decry “tax increase,” these revenues are already due and payable by law.
- **Please support:**
 - S. 743 – Marketplace Fairness Act of 2013, sponsored by Sen. Mike Enzi (WY)

Maintain Funding For Education and Workforce Development

- **Description:** County education and workforce development programs work to increase levels of employment that will ultimately help our nation, state and counties continue its economic recovery. Counties request that Congress maintain current levels of funding for education and workforce development programs in order to prepare students and adults to obtain and keep jobs.

Protect Counties during Implementation of the Affordable Healthcare Act

- **Description:** The U.S. Supreme Court issued their opinion validating the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. Now, states are preparing for and currently deciding how to participate in the new federal healthcare exchange program. North Carolina state leaders are debating whether to increase those who are eligible for Medicaid and whether to initiate a state/federal exchange. As these decisions are made, it is still unclear what impacts they could have on counties. Main concerns center on the financial costs involved with the administrative functions related to processing eligibility paperwork. Counties request that the federal and state government be aware of and sensitive to the costs involved in moving forward with the implementation of the Affordable Health Care Act.

Support Efforts to Maintain Funding for Beach Renourishment

- **Description:** North Carolina Coastal counties continually face challenges with beach erosion. Having well maintained beach areas and access is important not only to these coastal counties, but to the entire state due to the financial impacts derived from an active tourism economy. The NCACC requests that federal funding being maintained for beach renourishment programs.



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2014 NCACC Congressional Issues Proposal Form

Name: _____ County: _____

Issue: _____

Description: _____

Has a bill been introduced in Congress? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, please provide bill number. Senate Bill No.: ____ House Bill No.: _____

(Please answer the following questions)

How does this issue impact counties? _____

Does this issue contain a cost to counties? ____ Yes ____ No

Please explain: _____

Does this issue impact county authority? ____ Yes ____ No

Please explain: _____

Please return complete forms to: Kevin Leonard

Email to kevin.leonard@ncacc.org

or mail

NCACC

Atten: Kevin Leonard

215 North Dawson Street

Raleigh, NC 27603