

North Carolina's Northeast Chambers

2011 Legislative Action Agenda

1. North Carolina's Northeast Commission—recurring funding

With limited corporate headquarters and no county contributions, the region has very limited sources of private funding. A continuity of planning and staffing requires recurring funding as well as sufficient funds to remain effective. The seven regional partnerships need recurring funding and \$5.2 million as the minimum amount recommended by the NC Economic Development Board.

2. Transportation Improvement—continued funding and project completion

We request completion of the 4-laned expansion of the corridors into the state and region. This includes highways 158 and 17. We request that the formulas used now for determining road funding priorities remain unchanged. Maintain Gap Funding for Mid-County Currituck bridge project.

3. Eastern NC Insurance—equity across the state

We request a restructuring of the statewide management of insurance to include an independent board that provides opportunity for rate reviews with public comment and response to proposed rate adjustments.

4. Plant Biotechnology Commercialization Partnership—expansion funding

NC's Northeast Region has the potential to become the NC center for agricultural biotechnology. A detailed vision plan exists for this project and includes: Relocate NCSU staff back to the Research Center in Roper and finish the development of a training program for growers of biotech crops, and locate the ag science high school in Roper. We request support for federal funding of the Pilot Scale Botanical Extraction Facility to be built in Bertie County.

5. North Carolina Center for Automotive Research (NCCAR) - continued funding

Phase I facility construction was completed in March 2010, and the facility is locating clients. Continued state funding is vital to future auto research, testing, and manufacturing in the rural northeast.

Needed: \$16.3 million capital and \$1.9 million-two years operations.

6. Regional Aviation Parks—Elizabeth City Aviation Park continued funding

On-site integration of educational aviation/aerospace programs at Elizabeth City State University and College of the Albemarle with the industrial component will enable repair of Coast Guard aircraft and attract general aviation and aerospace businesses to the region.

7. Municipal Utilities – revised legislation

Current proposed legislation removes the ability for municipalities to transfer funds from electrical revenue to the general fund. Request that the legislation include a grandfather clause to protect current practices.



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NC's Northeast Commission

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