

MEDIA RELEASE

Release Date: April 8, 2009

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**North Carolina's
Northeast Commission**

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US Representative G.K. Butterfield Visits the Northeast Region

Edenton – US Representative G. K. Butterfield made a stop at the Northeast Commission Tuesday during a week-long tour of the 1st Congressional District. The meeting at the North Carolina's Northeast Commission office in Edenton was attended by county managers, economic developers, Northeast Commission board, and industry representatives interested in talking with the congressman about shovel-ready projects within the region. "We were pleased that Representative Butterfield chose to spend his spring break talking with his constituents. This meeting at the Northeast Commission office gave our 16 counties an opportunity to discuss their economic development projects. As a regional organization, we once again spoke with the congressman about our strategies to diversify the economy and expand the capacity for new jobs and new wealth within the region," stated Vann Rogerson, President/CEO of North Carolina's Northeast Commission.

Some of the highlights discussed included the North Carolina Center for Automotive Research (NCCAR) facility in Northampton County. This vehicle testing facility will provide companies with a confidential location to assess and evaluate new vehicle performance and reliability. Initial construction phases of the project are underway.

Also discussed was the need for a pilot-scale botanical extraction facility. This equipment will provide opportunities for companies growing specialty crops and functional foods to test the yields and markets on a small, pilot-scale before moving to the larger, commercial scale available through industrial extractors.

County industrial parks, such as the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Industrial Park, the Chowan County Airport Industrial Park, the Perquimans Commerce Centre, and the LandsEast Industrial Park in Martin County were included in the discussion. Companies locating into an area require infrastructure such as water, sewer, and electricity, so the counties in the region are working to establish business-friendly infrastructure.

Regional aviation parks were discussed as well as programs to support college level training in aviation sciences and aircraft repair in Elizabeth City. Aviation parks such as those located in Currituck, Pasquotank, Halifax, and Washington Counties can benefit from federal funding as many more travelers are choosing charter flights, and the local airports provide opportunities for new business development. The Commission once again emphasized the importance of Heritage Tourism to North Carolina's Northeast.

Representative Butterfield stated that Health Care, Energy, and Education will be the three points of focus for the new presidential administration. According to Rep. Butterfield, Congress will continue to look for ways to reduce national energy consumption and reduce pollution.



Vann Rogerson, President/CEO of NC's Northeast Commission greets US Representative Butterfield at the Northeast Commission office in Edenton.

About North Carolina's Northeast Commission:

North Carolina's Northeast Commission is dedicated to increasing the standard of living for citizens in its sixteen-county region through tourism, industrial, and business development. The 16 counties that comprise the regional Commission are: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington. For more information about the North Carolina's Northeast Commission, contact us at www.ncnortheast.com.

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