



Commissioners Office

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David Gantt

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District 2
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Joe Belcher
Miranda DeBruhl

September 1, 2015

Members of the NC General Assembly:

As Buncombe County Commissioners, we are concerned about the proposal to change the distribution of sales tax revenues. The change in formula will have a huge negative impact on our budgeted revenue. Our only option to increase revenues will be through the increase in local option sales taxes through referendum. If the electorate doesn't support the tax increase, our options will be to cut services or raise property taxes to pay for infrastructure investments already made, threatening our continued economic growth.

Another concern with the change in formula is the negative impact it would have on our bond rating—making it more difficult to meet certain rating criteria. We have worked for many years to achieve our AAA bond rating and urge you to help us protect it. Buncombe is a very expensive place to live and the negative impact of this change in formula would hurt our ability to attract higher paying jobs through continued economic development. This forced increase in property taxes to compensate for the shifting sales taxes would hurt the job market for us and our region.

Many individuals commute into high growth regions for jobs while having the option to live in a more rural setting. We believe offering current and future citizens choices about where to live and work is best for the State. We believe investing in infrastructure that allows for regional economies rather than county-oriented economies is best for the state.

We urge you to reconsider the ramifications of proposals to redistribute sales tax revenues and ask that you oppose the proposal to redistribute sales tax revenues outlined in the Senate's budget proposal.

Sincerely,

David Gantt
Chairman

