

Bill Faison

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Representative Thom Tillis, Speaker of the House
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2304
Raleigh, N.C. 27601-1096
Thom.Tillis@ncleg.net

Representative Dale Folwell, Speaker Pro Tempore of the House
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 301F
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Senator Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore of the Senate
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2008
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Senator Bob Rucho, Co-Chairman Senate Finance
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 300A
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Re: JOBS, the Economy, Education, and Corporate Tax Loopholes

Dear Gentlemen;

People in our State are in desperate economic straits. Over 500,000 are out of work according to the Employment Security Commission. People who have taken part time work or who have given up looking are not even counted. The real unemployment is probably 12-17.5 percent unless you are African American, in which event the unemployment rate is doubled.

More than 50,000 people newly applied for unemployment benefits in September. When jobs are lost it is now taking longer than any time in the last 60 years to find employment and then on the average the person takes a 17.5 percent cut in pay. As a result of the Budget passed this summer, almost 35,000 people are losing their jobs including teachers and teachers' aides. Moreover, class sizes are growing as the number of teachers decline, and per pupil spending sinks to 49th nationally. WE CAN FIX THIS.

Both political parties should be working together to solve the problems. People need help and are not interested in partisan posturing or ideology that sacrifices jobs and livelihoods. We have Session scheduled for three days the end of this month. I propose that we work together on a JOBS plan to put people back to work. We can do this by cutting the penny sales tax by 30 percent and putting a .7 cent sales tax back in the Budget.

This will fully fund rehiring every teacher, teachers' aide and State employee who lost their job in the Budget, fully fund Medicaid and SCHIP (and provide slacks and shoes for the State Highway Patrol). Moreover, we should repeal SL2011-390 which creates a \$39 million dollar corporate loophole and invest the money in education. Legislation is already drafted to reduce unemployment and has previously been presented to the Speaker. I am glad to have legislation drafted closing this particular corporate tax loophole.

I would welcome the opportunity of meeting with you to discuss how we can work together for the people of our State. Working together, WE CAN FIX THIS.

Best regards,



Bill Faison
Chairman House Democrats' Business Caucus

copies:

Representative Skip Stam, House Majority Leader
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Representative Joe Hackney, House Minority Leader
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Senator Harry Brown, Senate Majority Leader
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Senator Martin Nesbitt, Senate Democratic Leader
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This letter is sent to all recipients by email only.