

Bill Faison

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Raleigh, November 8, 2011 – Representative Bill Faison spoke out on the floor of the House last night against wasteful spending for multiple repeated Special Legislative Sessions. Last night, the Legislature was in its 13th day of Special Sessions since adjourning in June; with nine more yet to come at a cost to the public of over a million dollars.

The General Assembly passed a Budget and adjourned in June, but came back in Session in July for more than two weeks. The July session should have marked the end of special sessions until the regular short session in May of 2012, with the only exception being the possible need to come back for redistricting issues.

Rep. Faison said “It is expensive to bring the Legislature back to Raleigh. It costs \$50,000 a day. For example the Redistricting Session in July (all of which could have been done before adjourning in June) cost the public \$450,000.”

Faison continued, “The Republican Leadership brought the Legislature back to Raleigh in September for three days for a Constitutional Amendment at an additional cost to the public of \$150,000.”

The Republican leadership brought the Legislature back to Raleigh again Mon., Nov. 7 and now has plans for even more special sessions.

“This one day November session cost the public \$50,000, a cost that was completely unnecessary because the session purpose, redistricting, was premature. Nonetheless, they modified the redistricting plan yet again,” said Faison

“But hold on, they are not done yet,” continued Faison. “Before recessing Monday night, they passed an Adjournment Resolution to bring the Legislature back into Session on Sunday night following Thanksgiving for three days; then three more days on a Thursday through Saturday in February; and, then three more days in April before reconvening for the Short Session on May 16. The point of these additional Sessions is all the same: Redistricting, Veto Overrides, and Election Laws. The cost to the people is another \$450,000.”

Between adjourning the Long Session in June 2011 and reconvening for the Short Session in May of 2012, the Republican Leadership will have brought the Legislature back to Raleigh six times at a cost to the Public of \$1,100,000.

“This is no way to run a railroad. Our economy is in bad shape; over 50,000 people lost their jobs last month. This is enough money wasted to put a lot of people back to work. Teachers, teacher aids, state employees lost their jobs; school classrooms are crowded. For \$1,100,000 we could put a lot of people back in their jobs,” said Faison.

Representative Faison represents NC House District 50, Northern Orange and Caswell Counties, and was first elected to the Legislature in 2005. Bill is a staunch supporter and advocate for jobs, education and health care. As a Single Dad, Bill knows how important it is to make good decisions now for results in the future. With three children in college and one in high school, Bill is focused on acting now to secure the future for all of our children.

As a legislator since 2005, he has championed rural high-speed internet access and in his role as Chairman of the House Democrats' Business Caucus, he has taken on the issue of rising unemployment in NC and is calling for a JOBS plan for the State, with a challenge to the GOP Leadership.

For information on the JOBS plan, supported by 35 of his colleagues in the NC House, go to www.BillFaison.com

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