



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATOR PHILIP E. BERGER
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
NORTH CAROLINA SENATE

April 2, 2014

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II
President
NAACP North Carolina State Conference
P.O. Box 335
Durham, N.C. 27702

Dear Rev. Dr. Barber:

Voters overwhelmingly elected Republicans to lead the General Assembly in 2010, and again in 2012, based on a platform to revitalize North Carolina's economy, jumpstart job growth and balance the state budget. This platform included promises to reform the tax code, reduce the tax burden on our state's families and small businesses, control the growth of government spending and reform public education to improve student outcomes. We have worked hard to fulfill the campaign promises we made to voters.

Our efforts to balance the state budget, close a \$2.5 billion deficit without raising taxes and fulfill other promises have helped turn North Carolina's economy around. Our state's unemployment rate has fallen below the national rate for the first time since 2006, and North Carolina's businesses have added nearly 200,000 new jobs in the last three years. More North Carolinians are working today than ever before, and the reductions in income and sales taxes under Republican leadership have put more money in the pockets of working families.

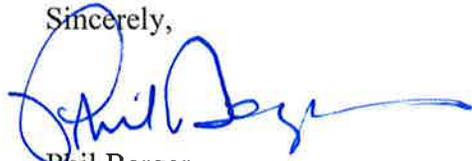
Over the last year, you have traveled the state to voice your displeasure with legislation we passed to fulfill our promises to voters and effect change.

I understand we differ on the best way to move our state forward, and I strongly support your first amendment right to voice those differences. However, I am concerned that over-the-top rhetoric and tactics used to express your views undermines the ability to engage in a serious and meaningful debate.

In the interest of advancing a productive dialogue, I want to invite you to offer a specific and comprehensive list of policy recommendations that you would like to see considered by the General Assembly in our 2014 short session.

I would appreciate your response by Friday, April 18 and look forward to reviewing your recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Berger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Phil Berger
President Pro Tempore