



December 11, 2014

Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

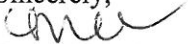
Dear Governor Pat McCrory,

In a Tier 1 County like ours, resources are always limited and you learn to do more with less. Organizations have to work together to ensure the vitality of the County as a whole and no one works as an island. A strong focus has to be put on economic development in order for the County to grow. Small Business has become vital to the success of Beaufort County and has become a strong economic engine. Small businesses don't just happen. They are nurtured and entrepreneurship is built on relationships, education, and a strong determination to succeed. The Small Business Center in Beaufort County is our partner in preparing and helping these businesses that are in the beginning stages, as well as currently operating. In other counties with more resources, the importance of their Small Business Center may not be as apparent.

If funding for the Small Business Center is removed from our County, we will have been stripped of a vital resource that assists startup and current local businesses. I can see where in larger metropolitan areas that have Universities there might be a duplication of resources, however I can say in rural North Carolina counties like ours that is not the case. We work as a team and the Small Business Center is a major partner of this team. If the funding of the Small Business Centers is stopped, a catalyst for economic development and entrepreneurship is halted in not only our county, but in rural areas. Our SBC not only counsels local businesses and clients, but they also provide relevant seminars to help our businesses start, grow and sustain. They also serve on local boards that are vested in workforce development, small business growth, and entrepreneurship on many levels. SBC economic impact goes beyond job creation and retention. Our SBC is an economic boost to the citizens of our region. They are not just a department of our local Beaufort County Community College, but are a vital partner in economic development. Our current and would-be entrepreneurs learn through our SBC. If that resource is removed we will suffer throughout Beaufort County and the four County area the SBC supports.

We as a Country have experienced a horrible recession and although you may see some areas prospering, those in rural North Carolina still have a long way to go. While we are trying to do all we can to rebound, removing a vital resource would set us back tremendously, and I can only hope that you would not want to do that. Eliminating funding for the SBC Network would end *one of the best returns-on-investment of public dollars in our great state*. Beaufort County's economic future depends on this investment!

Sincerely,



Catherine Glover
Executive Director
Washington-Beaufort County Chamber of Commerce

Walt Gerard
Gerard Seed Company

Ashley Vansant
Washington Daily News

Lewis Jones
Wilson, Jones & Griffin, PA

Ray Moore
F. Ray Moore Oil Company

Ray McKeithan
PotashCorp-Aurora

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