

December 8, 2010

The Honorable Richard Burr
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Hagan
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Senator Burr and Senator Hagan:

On behalf of the North Carolina Chamber and the undersigned local Chambers of Commerce representing business communities across the state, we are writing you to express our opposition to S. 3991, the "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act," which would force North Carolina to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety employees. While S. 3991 has been amended from previous versions to now exempt sheriffs and their employees, we remain opposed to any collective bargaining mandate proposal.

This collective bargaining mandate would force North Carolina's state and local governments to adhere to a one-size-fits-all federal labor management guideline. This preempts current state law which bans collective bargaining by public employees and would make government more costly and less efficient for North Carolina taxpayers.

As North Carolina continues to grapple with significant revenue and budget challenges, now is not the time to implement what is essentially an unfunded mandate that would raise the cost of government to benefit unions at taxpayers' expense. S.3991 fails to recognize that each jurisdiction has unique needs and resources which influence how state and local governments approach their labor-management relations. To force North Carolina governments to collectively bargain with government employees will impede their ability to function economically and effectively.

For all of the reasons outlined in this letter, the North Carolina Chamber and the undersigned local Chambers of Commerce respectfully request that you oppose S. 3991 and take whatever action necessary to prevent this collective bargaining mandate from becoming law.

Respectfully yours,

Burke County Chamber of Commerce
Catawba County Chamber of Commerce
Henderson County Chamber of Commerce
High Point Chamber of Commerce
North Carolina Chamber
Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
Rowan County Chamber of Commerce
Winston Salem Chamber of Commerce