

SUPPORT ITEMS

High Point Furniture Market

\$2.6 million recurring funds

We support the High Point Furniture Market's request for funding. The High Point Furniture Market is a vital part of Guilford County's economic health. Each year, the Market attracts 160,000-plus professionals responsible for 99 percent of the industry's total buying power from across the U.S. and around the globe. Total economic impact on the State of North Carolina is estimated at \$1.2 billion annually, representing 13,000 jobs to the region and State. We encourage our local officials to recognize the Market's importance and dedicate funding to assist in its continued growth.

Small Business Initiatives

State matching funds for SBIR grants as well as a proposed capital gains tax exclusion for angel investment and founders stock will facilitate the formation of a knowledge-based economy and a strong climate for entrepreneurship and innovation.

One North Carolina Fund

We support the continuation of SBIR matching funds issued through the One North Carolina Fund. This fund is essential to the continued development of technologically innovative small businesses, which increase the tax base of the state through tax revenue and job creation.

Health Insurance for Small Businesses

Lower cost health insurance is, by far, the number one concern of businesses. With an estimated 1.3 million North Carolinians uninsured, there is a significant need to address adequate and affordable health care. Small Businesses employ over 49% percent of the workforce but often cannot provide the necessary health insurance for their employees.

Education Initiatives

A strong public school system means better educated students and a healthier economy. We need commitment from every level of government to recognize the magnitude of needs facing public schools and to collectively provide the resources necessary to ensure their success.

Downtown Greenway - Greensboro

This 4.8-mile proposed walking and biking trail would loop around downtown, connecting extensive existing and planned trails in the city and the county, promoting fitness, connectedness and well-being for our residents and visitors. The Downtown Greenway provides a unique opportunity for Greensboro to have the only one of its kind in the state and one of the few in the country.



FEDERAL PRIORITIES

Employee Free Choice Act

The Greensboro Partnership opposes the Employee Free Choice Act, which would eliminate the secret ballot provision and replace it with a "card check" procedure, where union negotiations must begin within 10 days once 50% of the employees sign a card. Furthermore, this provision inserts Federal arbitrators into negotiations at the union's request shifting the balance between the interests of businesses and unions. The elimination of the secret ballot provision removes the employee's right to privately choose whether to join a union or not while opening them to pressure tactics from both union representatives and company management. The insertion of Federal arbitrators takes away a business' ability to regulate the wages and benefits offered to its employees. These provisions are not in the best interest of either business management or employees.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Greensboro Partnership serves as principal economic and community development organization in Greensboro, North Carolina. Its mission is to strategically develop a vibrant community that creates, expands and attracts business while advancing the quality of life for all.



2009 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Governmental Affairs
336.387.8331
greensboropartnership.com



STATE FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Greensboro Partnership supports the following projects it deems as important to the vitality of the Greensboro community.

NCA&TSU/UNCG Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering (JSNN) and Joint Primary Data Center (JPDC)

\$4.4 million for continued development of JSNN and JPDC. This funding request will spread across two biennium from 2009 through 2011.

Completion of JSNN and JPDC is a critical part of the economic development efforts in Greensboro. Once fully developed, the training, research and development activity associated with this project will have an estimated economic impact of \$20 million per year within the Triad region. In addition, JPDC will ensure JSNN has full operating capacity and will serve as an important recruiting tool for businesses considering Greensboro. The State will save \$56 million by building a consolidated Data Center instead of separate centers at each university and at the Gateway University Research Park.

North Carolina A&T State University School of Engineering/Engineering Research Center

\$2 million required match for the National Science Foundation grant

NC A&T is the recipient of the ERC designation, one of 30 awarded by the NSF over the past 25 years. The approved funding is for 5 years with an amount of \$18 million dollars, with a potential duration of 10 years. The ERC at NC A&T will conduct research in the areas of biomedical engineering and nano bio applications and is in partnership with the Universities of Cincinnati and Pittsburgh. NC A&T is the first HBCU in history to receive an ERC.

International Civil Rights Center and Museum

Operating funding for the museum

This endeavor, which partners with the Smithsonian Institute, will become a focal point of the community by providing an economic and educational benefit to the tourist industry of Greensboro, Guilford County, the Piedmont Triad and the State of North Carolina.



Transportation

Greensboro is poised to experience rapid growth — growth attributed to the perfect synthesis of location, infrastructure and a skilled workforce. Our continued success depends on having the resources to maintain a reliable infrastructure helping companies connect to their customers across the country while continuing to attract thriving companies like FedEx and UPS.

We appeal to our elected leaders in the State General Assembly to focus on the transportation needs of the state especially the Piedmont Triad region. The following items are priorities for our area:

- The **adoption of the 21st Century Transportation Committee's Final Report** with a caveat that no additional monetary responsibilities be given to the counties or municipalities.
- The completion of the **Greensboro Urban Loop** because this project is vital for the continued economic development in this area especially as the FedEx Express Hub begins operations in 2009.
- Additionally, we support the complete **refurbishment/repair of the Yadkin River Bridge on I-85**.



Economic Development

Oppose the Jordan Lake Stormwater Rules

The Greensboro Partnership requests the General Assembly to oppose the Jordan Lake Stormwater Rules as written due to the detrimental fiscal impact they will impose on affected municipalities and counties. Additionally, we request that the General Assembly specifically vote for the elimination of the existing development rule, which will cause an increase in taxes and a negative impact on corporate expansion and relocation efforts.

Sales Tax Credits for Small Aircraft Repair Parts

The Greensboro Partnership requests the following amendment to NCGS §105-164.13(45) regarding exemptions on sales tax for repair parts used on interstate passenger air carriers. We would like to amend this exemption to include small aircraft repair parts in addition to the interstate passenger air carrier repair parts. We believe this legislation will benefit all of the aircraft companies in North Carolina and urge the General Assembly to enact legislation to this effect. This legislation is in place in states such as Ohio and Florida and leaves us at a disadvantage when recruiting aircraft companies to North Carolina.



Sales Tax Exemption for Flight Simulators

The Greensboro Partnership requests the following amendment to NCGS §105-164.13(45) regarding exemptions on sales tax for flight simulators as approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. We would like the exemption to apply to all flight simulators for civil and military aircraft.