

BIG SOLAR

Some in GOP Back Mandates

BY FRANCIS DE LUCA AND SUSAN MYRICK

What do President Barack Obama and a growing number of Republicans in the North Carolina General Assembly have in common? The answer is: their love of major solar energy companies, or “Big Solar,” for short.

As for the president – everyone remembers Solyndra. The solar firm landed a \$535 million federal loan guarantee thanks to the 2009 “stimulus.” Just a matter of months later, however, Solyndra was bankrupt.

Solyndra was just one of many indications that solar is not a viable alternative to conventional power sources unless it receives massive government mandates and subsidies.

Yet there is a growing group of Republicans in the General Assembly who actively support legislation that backs government mandates and taxpayer subsidies, thus higher electric bills for consumers.

One is Rep. John Szoka (R-Cumberland), perhaps the

most outspoken proponent of solar energy this year, who is listed as a sponsor on HB 454, The Energy Investment Act, a bill that would extend the 35 percent state tax credit for renewables. He also is a primary sponsor on another bill, HB 245, Utilities/The Energy Freedom Act, which will allow third-party sales of electricity from on-site renewable energy facilities.

Neither of those two bills passed the House before the April 30 crossover deadline. That means they can't be considered for passage this session, although features of the bills could possibly be incorporated in other measures.

In several interviews Szoka has said that he believes in free markets, but at the same time says he wants to keep incentives for renewable energy. Does he not recognize this contradiction? His change of heart since 2012 now makes him a darling of the solar lobby. Liberal environmental groups such



as NC WARN have publicly praised him.

Szoka is not the only Republican who has turned his back on conservative, free-market principles to take up the cause of more government mandates, political favoritism and higher electric bills. In April 2013, Rep. Mike Hager (R-Rutherford) sponsored legislation to roll back the renewable energy mandates.

But six Republicans joined with all the Democrats in the Public Utilities Committee and voted against the legislation, preventing the bill from making it to the House floor for a vote. The Republicans who voted against the legislation, thus maintaining these solar mandates, were current Speaker of the House Tim Moore (Cleveland), Jerry Dockham (Davidson), Ruth Samuelson (Mecklenburg),

Nelson Dollar (Wake), Charles Jeter (Mecklenburg), and Linda Johnson (Cabarrus.)

In an April 2013 Carolina Journal article, Hager is quoted as saying, “Some not-so-conservatives decided to vote for a bill that extends mandates and subsidies forever. We presented a bill that's a conservative bill, but some Republicans subsidized a sector of business that would go on forever.”

The environmentalists pushing “clean” energy have fashioned a new weapon that can best be described as Big Solar. But Big Solar is not a job-growth engine as claimed by lobbyists; it exists only because of government. The major solar corporations, however, have hired the right Republican political consultants and lobbyists in North Carolina to push the narrative to their clients – GOP legislators.

For example, the “Clean Energy” power players in North Carolina include the most powerful and well-connected Republican political consultants:

Paul Shumaker, partner, Strategic Partners Solutions and president of political consulting firm Capital Communications, Inc. Shumaker boasts as his clients Sen. Richard Burr, Supreme Court Justices Mark Martin and Bob Edmunds, and Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry. Shumaker served as campaign director for the North Carolina Republican Party from 1985-1987 and worked for former GOP Gov. Jim Martin in both of his successful gubernatorial campaigns.

Dee Stewart, partner, Strategic Partners Solutions, and CEO and President of the political consulting firm

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‘Gang of 5’ Blocks Cheaper Power Bills

BY CIVITAS STAFF

Why does a gang of five Republicans want you to pay more for electricity?

That's what happened in the General Assembly when five GOP state representatives voted to block a bill that would have lowered your power bill and helped the state's economy. Moreover, these lawmakers were doing the bidding of well-financed, special-interest lobbyists while advancing the

agenda of environmental radicals.

What kind of Republican representative would do that? They are:

- Sam Watford (Davidson)
- Nelson Dollar (Wake)
- Chris Malone (Wake)
- Kelly Hastings (Cleveland)
- John Bradford (Mecklenburg)

They voted recently in the House Public Utilities

Committee against House Bill 681, the NC Energy Ratepayers Protection Act. The measure would have capped, phased out and set a sunset date for a state law that forces NC energy users to purchase more expensive and unreliable sources of “renewable” energy. That means bigger utility bills for you, the ratepayer, and less growth and prosperity for the state as a whole.

Renewable Energy Standards

In 2008, the Democrat-dominated General Assembly enacted a renewable energy portfolio standard. These standards require that a certain percentage of energy provided by NC utilities come from so-called renewable sources, such as solar, wind, hydropower and even biomass.

Despite much hype, however, these sources remain more

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From the Editor

Three Reasons the Future is Conservative

BY JIM TYNEN

The cliché is that conservatives are stuck in the past, but the truth is that our ideas provide the best way to move into an increasingly turbulent future.

Of course, conservatives respect the past, and draw inspiration from it. At the same time, American conservatives want to move forward – cautiously, prudently – toward a future where, we hope, we will attain that shining city on the hill.

But when I appeared recently on Bill Hendrickson's "Time Out" program on WCOM, a community FM station in Carrboro, our discussion reminded me of three reasons conservative ideas will be increasingly valuable in the 21st century.

1. Conservatism equips us to cope with rapid change.

Thinkers such as Friedrich Hayek who support limited government have shown that central planners cannot possibly get enough information to direct a city, state or nation. That fact is only going to grow worse for central planners, as rapid change makes their schemes obsolete before they're even written down.

For instance, Hendrickson and I discussed proposed light-rail and passenger rail plans for the Triangle. My main point was that rail lines and stations are billion-dollar structures that cannot be changed.

But think how much has changed across North Carolina over the past 30 years, then imagine even greater change in

the next 30. And other factors we can't even imagine may accelerate the process even more.

As conservatives have long held, individuals making their own plans can adapt much faster and more effectively to change. As technology and society

That isn't just a moral precept. That is a necessity where and when government can't provide help.

That day is coming. Truth in Accounting (TIA), a Chicago-based think tank, said North Carolina's debt totals \$48 billion if all pension and

local communities will be more vital than ever.

In transportation planning, it means government won't have the money to build every mass transit plan that bureaucrats, and developers and political insiders, want to build. In a vast number of other areas, it means

That is truer than ever before. Coming years may bring driverless cars, or buses, to change what we can do; ride-sharing services such as Uber or Lyft are already revolutionizing transportation. As computer technology grows, more people may telecommute, so there may be less need for centralized city centers or campuses.

The power of individuals has never been greater. There was a time when government had resources ordinary people couldn't match. Today, you and I may well have access to technology superior to what government has. Just the other day I heard a top North Carolina state official lamenting that his agency had to make due with computers out of the 1970s, complete with blinking green cursors and text on a black field.

The growth of technology will continue to race ahead, even as government lingers along. Government will only continue to fall behind the pace of change, even as progress empowers people.

Of course challenges will continue to face us all. But conservative ideas and solutions will provide the best way forward. That's been true in the past; it will be even more valid in our time's tumultuous, opportunity-rich future. ■



move ever faster, the ability of people and communities to act quickly, without too much government meddling, will be more valuable than ever.

2. Conservatism equips us to cope with the day governments go broke.

Conservatism has stressed that people should be self-reliant, without the need for government dependency. We all depend on each other for our daily needs, but these relationships should be voluntary and mutually beneficial – not politicized to create a class of people dependent on government.

health care costs are honestly counted.

Think Uncle Sam can bail us out? The official U.S. debt is \$18 trillion. Estimates of the real debt, counting liabilities such as Social Security, run from around \$60 trillion to \$220 trillion.

Most counties and cities have run their credit cards to the max too. The prop of government support is going to be knocked out from under anyone who leans too heavily on Big Brother's largess. When that happens, conservative values of self-reliance and working with private groups in

government will have to take a step back, or step away entirely.

3. Conservative ideas encourage people to run their own lives, and now they have more tools to do so.

Going back to public transportation, the subway and railroad systems of the big American cities were first built back in the 19th century, when the average working man or woman had to depend on the mass transit of the time. Beginning with the Model T, however, people could be in control of their own transportation.

NC Depends on DC More Than You Think

BY BRIAN BALFOUR

Should North Carolina be more reliant on the federal government, or work to be more independent from D.C.?

To answer that question, we need to understand how much the state already depends on Washington – and that dependency might be shocking to many NC taxpayers.

Illuminating the problem is a little-discussed provision included in last year's state budget requiring a handful of state agencies to disclose the number and dollar amount of active federal grants for which they are still receiving funds. The Departments of Labor,

revenue such as lottery receipts and college tuition.

Over the last few decades, North Carolina—like most states – has seen its reliance on federal funds increase. For instance, the governor's proposed FY 2015-16 budget anticipates \$16.2 billion in federal funds, which is nearly three and a half times the \$4.7 billion in federal dollars the state received 20 years ago.

As a result, this coming year federal funds will account for 32 percent of the total state budget, up from 26 percent in 1995-96. Indeed, the state is quickly becoming nearly as reliant on federal funds as it is state General

the intent of the federal legislation."

Such "strict restrictions and controls" represent an erosion of North Carolina's independence, giving way to more obedience to the commands coming from D.C. After all, he who pays the piper calls the tune.

Recall it was the NC General Assembly—so desperate to snatch \$400 million of "Race to the Top" federal grant funding—that hastily adopted Common Core standards in 2010.

Moreover, is it wise to rely so heavily on revenue from an

entity that is completely broke? Uncle Sam is on pace for a \$700 billion budget deficit this year, and another \$2.5 trillion over the next four years. The national debt has ballooned to exceed \$18 trillion, with unfunded liabilities for Social Security and Medicare estimated by some to be another \$95 trillion.

How would North Carolina respond if its federal funding dried up, or was reduced by 10, 20 or 30 percent? How would state legislators finance all of the state's operations and services? Is North Carolina truly financially

ready to absorb cutbacks to federal funding?

In 2011, Utah passed a bill requiring all state agencies to disclose total federal receipts, the strings attached, and a contingency plan if those federal dollars are reduced. Similar bills in Idaho, Montana and South Carolina have been introduced already this year.

North Carolina would be wise to follow suit. ■

This article originally appeared in the Fayetteville Observer.

Monthly Petition

No New Health Insurance Mandates!

Tell our legislators we can't afford more health insurance mandates pushed by special-interest groups!

Insurance mandates force you to pay for coverage you don't want or need and that only benefit a few people. Obamacare gave us too many mandates, and we don't need any more in North Carolina.

Signing the No New Mandates petition below will tell the North Carolina General Assembly: I don't want any more mandates to cover services that a few people want but everyone pays for. These mandates raise the cost of healthcare insurance coverage for everyone. Say "No!" to demands for new, expensive mandates!

Name (First, M.I., Last) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State, Zip _____ County _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Cut out and mail to: Civitas Institute, 100 S. Harrington St. Raleigh, NC 27603
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Some in GOP Aid Big Solar Agenda

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The Stewart Group, Inc. Stewart was Congressman Patrick McHenry's chief of staff in 2005 and is currently his chief political advisor. He was the executive director of the Iowa Republican Party during a presidential primary year. According to the Strategic Partners Solutions website, Stewart has worked for dozens of current and former state legislators – all Republicans – including Senate Leader Phil Berger, Sen. Bill Rabon (Brunswick) and Rep. David Lewis (Harnett).

Betsy McCorkle, political consultant to North Carolina Clean Energy Business Alliance (NCCEBA). McCorkle is the director of government affairs for the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Alliance (NCSEA) and was formerly the Economic Development Program manager for the North Carolina Solar Center at NC State University.

Kristen Laster, managing partner, Southern Strategy Group. Laster is also a registered lobbyist with NCSEA and is the treasurer for the NCCEBA PAC.

Scott Laster, partner, Southern Strategy Group. He is a registered lobbyist with NCSEA. Laster worked as the House campaign director for the North Carolina Republican

Party in 2010. In 2012, he was hired as executive director for the NCGOP.

There is yet another tie that's interesting. Scott Laster has a company, ZDL Solutions, that shares office space at 514 Daniels St., Suite 239, Raleigh, with Conservatives for Clean Energy.

Other clean energy operatives working to recruit conservatives to Big Solar include:

Mark Fleming, president and CEO of Conservatives for Clean Energy. Formerly,

“Perhaps the Republicans who are supporting crony tax credits and subsidies for Big Solar are getting advice that helps them rationalize a shift toward the Left.”

Fleming served as district director for Congressman Patrick McHenry. According to his bio, he also worked as vice president of NCFREE and executive director of the Wake Forest Area Chamber of Commerce.

Ivan Urlaub, executive director and registered agent for NCSEA. He was also the registered agent for the NCCEBA.

Sea Change

These power players, and the misnamed “conservative”

groups, are all connected to environmental groups who get their funding from some of the most radical and well-funded organizations in the world. A 2014 U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Minority Staff report described an organization named Sea Change this way:

“Even more unsettling, a dominant organization in this movement is Sea Change Foundation, a private California foundation, which relies on funding from a foreign company

with undisclosed donors. In turn, Sea Change funnels tens of millions of dollars to other large but discreet foundations and prominent environmental activists who strive to control both policy and politics.”

The same report describes the Energy Foundation this way:

“The Energy Foundation is a pass-through public charity utilized by the most powerful Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA) members to create the appearance of a more diversified base of

support, to shield them from accountability, and to leverage limited resources by hiring dedicated energy/environment staff to handle strategic giving. The Energy Foundation is the largest recipient of grants from the foreign-funded Sea Change Foundation; yet, it appears the Energy Foundation attempts to hide donations from Sea Change, as it is not listed as one of Energy Foundation's partners.”

Sea Change and the Energy Foundation are working together to fund the radical left environmental movement in North Carolina. Republicans working with them are supporting the Left's environmental goals.

For instance, in 2014 Conservatives for Clean Energy/NCSEA received \$350,000 from the Energy Foundation; NCSEA has received \$925,000 from the Energy Foundation (46 percent of its grant funding) since 2008.

Perhaps the Republicans who are supporting crony tax credits and subsidies for Big Solar are getting advice that helps them rationalize a shift toward the Left. Strategic Partners Solutions, owned by Shumaker and Stewart, conducted a poll for Conservatives for Clean Energy and presented the poll at an NCSEA breakfast on March

4 this year. Julie Robinson, a lobbyist for NCSEA, tweeted during the presentation and quoted Shumaker as saying: “don't be a knuckle dragger – because you can't win the unaffiliateds if you're on the anti-side of issues.” She also tweeted this quote from Stewart: “Appealing to the middle is key to winning NC. Reality of life; you can't just win with your base anymore.”

Republicans need to take a step back and see that the solar sector exists mostly because of government subsidies, tax credits, and mandates. Moreover, Republicans and conservatives need to question why groups and people on the Left are thanking them for standing with them in extending unending government subsidies and mandates and leaving North Carolinians with higher electric bills.

But, most of all, these Republicans need to think about their constituents who sent them to Raleigh to change the way business is conducted in North Carolina. Too many of these legislators are beginning to look a lot like the progressives that controlled North Carolina for more than 100 years. ■

‘Gang of 5’ Blocks Cheaper Power Bills

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

expensive and less reliable than traditional power sources. That means the law has forced major energy providers such as Duke Energy to purchase more expensive and inefficient energy sources – thus passing along to consumers higher energy bills. Low-income families are hardest hit because they spend a larger share of their household income on energy.

The damage doesn't stop there. Higher energy costs on business discourage investment and job creation, reducing the number of employment options—especially for those low-skilled, low-income people on the margins of employment.

Indeed, a recent study conducted by Strata Policy in conjunction with Utah State University's Institute of Political Economy concluded that North Carolina's renewables mandate has cost the state 24,000 jobs and \$14.4 billion in personal income.

The renewables mandate also favors big corporations and political cronies. Forcing utilities to provide a minimum percentage of their energy from so-called renewable energy sources is corporate welfare, plain and simple. Energy users across the state – from low-income apartments to big businesses – pay more for their energy in order to further enrich wealthy investors and corporations.

As detailed elsewhere in NC Capitol Connection, the coterie of lobbyists, leftists and corporations we call Big Solar put

“This bill is focused solely on protecting the ratepayer. This is not a battle of renewable versus nonrenewable,” said state Rep.

“North Carolina's renewables mandate has cost the state 24,000 jobs and \$14.4 billion in personal income.”

lots of money and clout behind the drive to defeat HB 681.

Big Solar cheered HB 681's defeat. For example, the NC Sustainable Energy Association proclaimed on its website: “Please thank the Representatives listed below for voting NO on H 681.”

Voting against the bill, and thus protecting the renewables mandate, also put the infamous five Republicans in odd company: All 11 of the utility committee's Democrats rejected the bill.

Note the North Carolina Republican Party's 2014 Platform (Article IX, 3), which proclaimed: “We call for repeal of the national ethanol mandate and EPA and offshore regulation and the state renewable energy mandate.”

Nor is HB 681 an “anti-solar” measure. It would support the use of renewable energy sources – if and when they cost as much as traditional energy sources. It phases out the mandate over three years, and protects contracts.

Chris Millis, R-Pender, a sponsor of HB 681.

Why Fight HB 681?

Why would Republican lawmakers vote to protect such an unfair, job-killing policy backed by a cabal of big corporations, political insiders and cronies, and left-leaning activists? Here are a few revealing points about some of the Gang of Five:

Nelson Dollar—According to a News & Observer story about HB 681:

“Rep. Nelson Dollar, a Republican from Cary, said the 2007 law wasn't perfect but it was created with extensive input from dozens of interests. Substantial private investments were made on the basis of that law, he said.”

The question about interests, however, is whether those interests were speaking on behalf of all the people, or were working for a clique of crony capitalists and political insiders. As for private investments, the question

is whether those investments are truly private, or are in fact corporate welfare.

Kelly Hastings – WRAL reported that in debate over HB 681, Hastings “asked [Rep.] Millis if Duke [Energy] has promised in writing that electric rates would drop if less renewable energy was required under state law. Millis and others noted that rates are based on various factors, not just the renewable power requirement.”

But an HB 261 co-sponsor, Rep. Jeff Collins (Nash), countered that a Department of Energy and Natural Resources report indicated power rates in North Carolina have risen at two-and-a-half times the national average since 2008 – the year after the renewable power mandate was passed.

As others have suggested, moreover, energy companies like Duke have a vested interest in the mandate: it subsidizes their ventures into alternate power sources.

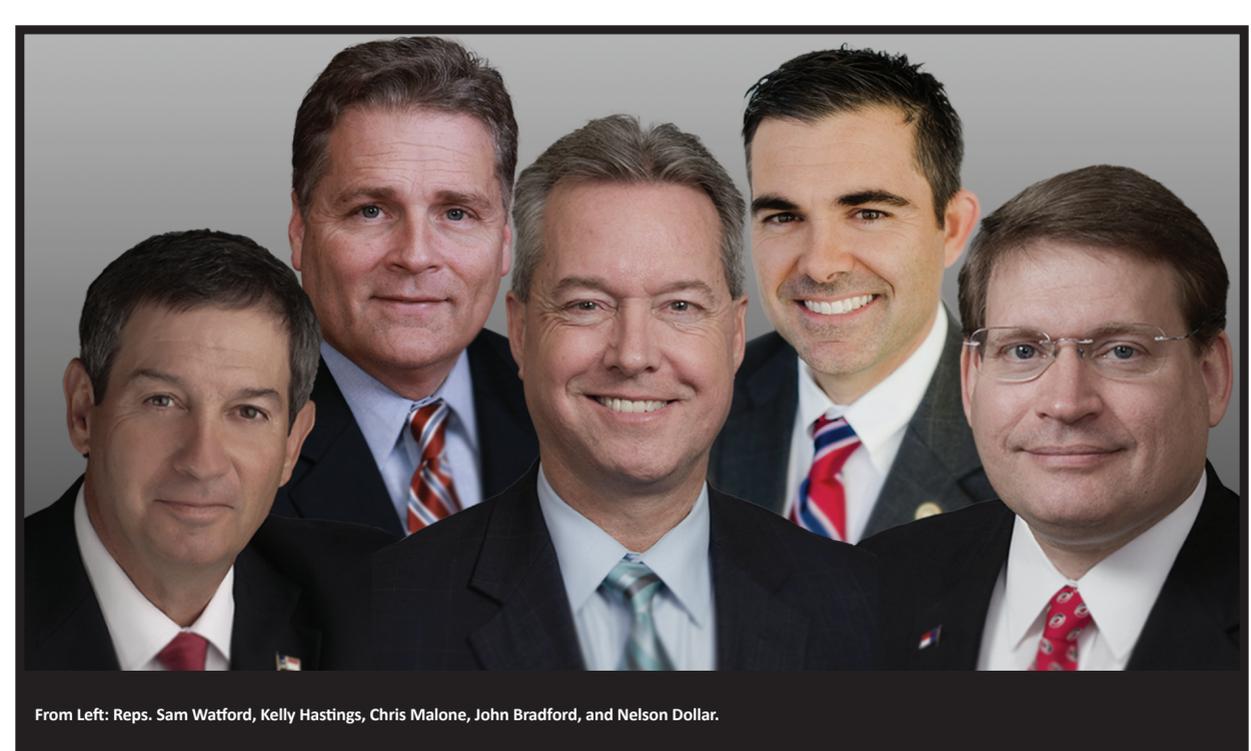
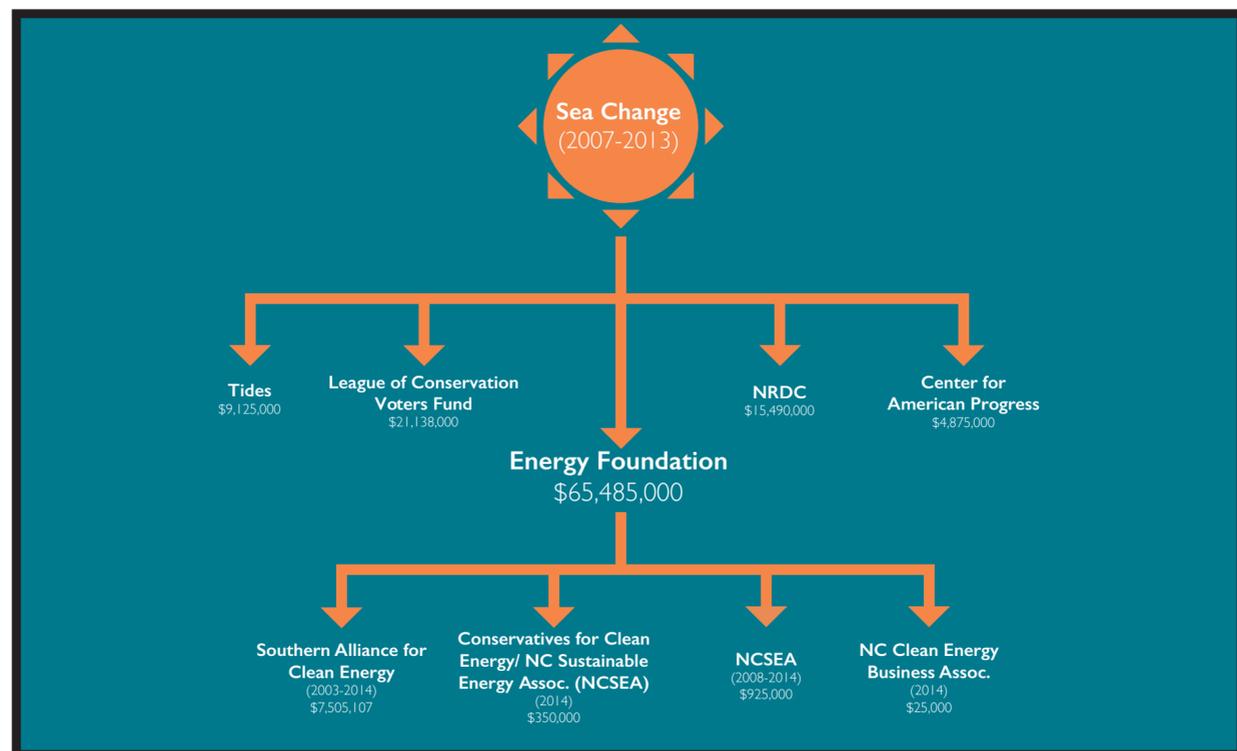
Sam Watford – In 2011, then-County Commissioner Watford said of the DTE Biomass plant in Davidson County, “I'm extremely impressed with this facility.” DTE Biomass is a subsidiary of DTE Energy, a Detroit-based corporation, which in April reported first quarter 2015 earnings of \$273 million on revenue of \$2.9 billion.

Why would a Republican buy into the Big Solar agenda? Our Big Solar articles suggest some answers. One theory might be that political consultants have browbeaten naïve politicians into thinking the renewable agenda is politically popular. Political operatives might lead lawmakers astray with misleading arguments. Other political players might be influenced by the power and wealth of big corporations. Some may be looking at short-term gains for themselves, while ignoring of the long-term costs to all the people of North Carolina.

Key aspects of the issue were rolled into a “compromise” that took the form of an amendment to the Regulatory Reform Act of 2015, which was submitted just before the crossover deadline. The amendment would cap the state's renewable energy portfolio standard and eliminate the 80 percent property tax break received by solar farms and facilities.

The amendment would also establish a committee to further study the state's renewable portfolio standard-related matters. ■

For more information on the key vote from HB 681, see the vote box on p.10. For more on the latest vote on HB 760 as of press time, see the vote box on p.8.



From Left: Reps. Sam Watford, Kelly Hastings, Chris Malone, John Bradford, and Nelson Dollar.

Civitas Poll

NC Voters Support Election Reforms

BY CIVITAS STAFF

The most recent Civitas Poll showed North Carolina voters strongly support laws protecting the integrity and stature of the election process.

“North Carolinians recognize the importance of fair and honest elections, and they strongly support the steps needed to protect the process,” said Susan Myrick, Elections Policy Analyst for the Civitas Institute. “Voters say photo ID at the polls is very valuable in protecting the integrity of the ballot box, and almost all of them have such ID.”

Seventy-six percent of the respondents said that voters should not be allowed to register and then vote on the same day without providing a valid photo ID that includes the voter’s current address. Recent legislation has put an end to the practice of Same Day Registration.

This poll of 600 registered voters in North Carolina was conducted Feb. 24-26, 2015 by National Research, Inc., of Holmdel, NJ.

The poll also examined what North Carolina voters think about how well President Obama and Gov. Pat McCrory are doing their jobs.

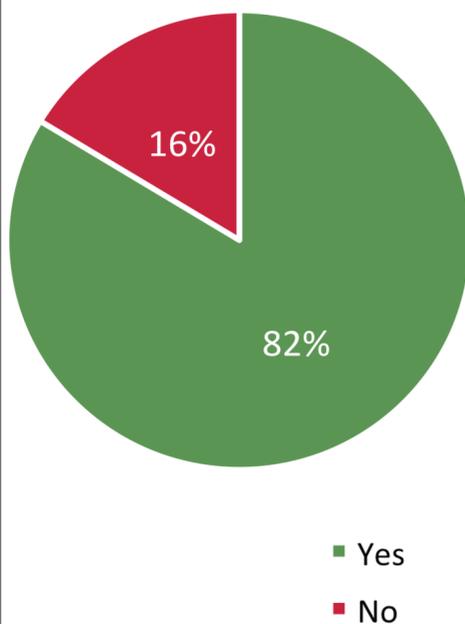
“Our latest poll results show that not only is President Obama in negative territory in his overall job approval numbers, but a significant majority of those who disapprove of his job strongly disapprove,” said Civitas Policy Director Brian Balfour.

“Meanwhile, McCrory continues to enjoy positive job approval numbers, but we’ve seen approval from his base shrink somewhat in recent months,” Balfour added. ■

OUR POLL LUNCHES WILL TELL YOU EVEN MORE ABOUT WHAT NORTH CAROLINA VOTERS ARE THINKING.

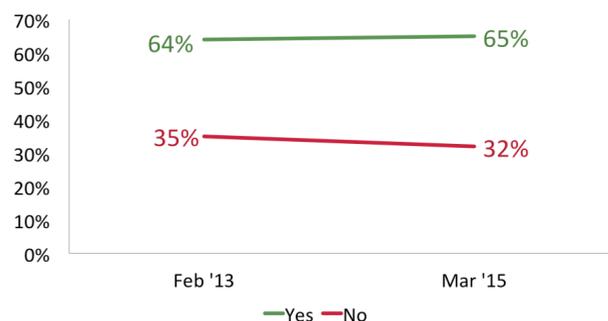
To find out more about the next presentation, go to: www.nccivitas.org/poll-lunch

Do you believe people in North Carolina should be required to prove their U.S. citizenship when they attempt to register to vote?

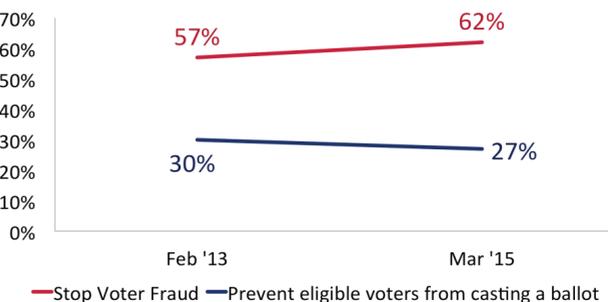


*Total may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

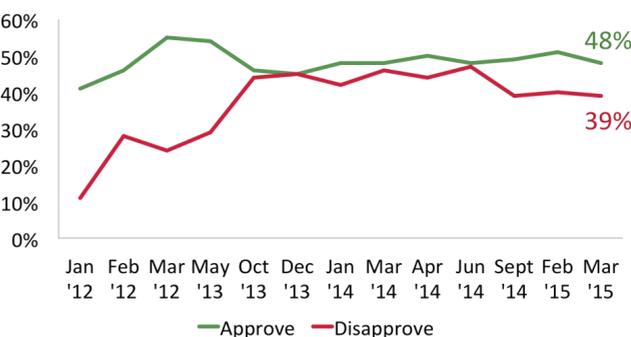
Will requiring all voters to show a photo ID to vote give you more confidence in election results?



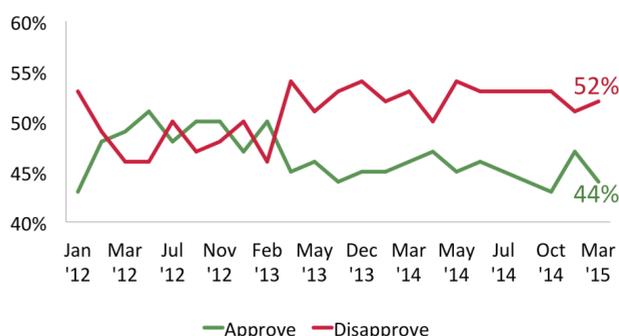
As you may know, North Carolina does not currently require a government-issued photo ID in order to vote, but voter ID will be required beginning in next year’s election. Do you believe the requirement to show ID to vote will be more likely to:



Now, please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the job that Pat McCrory is doing as Governor of North Carolina.



Now, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as President of the United States.



3 Key Bills on the Legislature’s Agenda

BY MATT CAULDER

The legislative focus has tightened down in both chambers after the crossover date April 30, which needed out most bills that had not been passed out of their originating chamber by that day.

Not subject to the crossover rules are bills relating to collecting or spending funds; bills relating to redistricting; ratification of amendments to the United States Constitution; bills introduced on the report of the House appropriations, finance or rules committees; bills relating to gubernatorial nominations or appointments; or adjournment resolutions.

The deadline signaled an end to a two-week mad dash on Jones Street to move legislation subject to crossover across the hall as legislators worked late into the wee hours of the morning, passing dozens of pieces of legislation out of at least one chamber, while leaving others to enter the dead zone.

One caveat, however: Even a “dead” bill can be resurrected like a zombie and grafted into existing legislation throughout the session.

A few of the bills that likely will draw attention as the session moves on include:

Renewable Energy Legislation

After a crucial Public Utilities Committee meeting was

cancelled, dooming HB 681, the NC Energy Ratepayers Protection Act which was introduced by Rep. Chris Millis (R-Onslow). In order to survive the crossover deadline, watered-down language from the bill was added to a regulatory reform bill set to be passed on the House floor Tuesday.

In its original form, HB 681 would have removed the mandate on utilities that a certain percentage of its power generation be generated by renewable sources.

New language, added as an amendment into the Regulatory Reform Act of 2015, limits the percentage of energy generation that must come from renewable sources at its current level of 6 percent, removing two subsequent steps up that would have raised it to 12.5 percent by 2021.

The amendment passed 97-19.

Omnibus Gun Rights Bill

Legislators rolled several pro-Second Amendment House bills into an omnibus bill, and included a \$20,000 fiscal note, a move to allow it to survive the deadline and keep the proposals on the table for discussion.

The Second Amendment Affirmation Act was sent to the House Committee on Appropriations Friday following favorable reports in both the

House Judiciary I and Rules committees.

Included in the bill are provisions to allow administrative law judges and district attorneys to carry a concealed handgun in courthouses.

Also in the bill is a section from another bill that would allow the commissioner of agriculture to prohibit concealed-carry of firearms at the State Fair, but also included is a provision obliging the Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety and the North Carolina Sheriffs’ Association, to study the best way to let concealed-handgun permit-holders carry their handguns from their vehicles to the gate of the fair and then pick them back up at the gate when they leave.

The group would have to make a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety by April 1, 2016.

Also included in the bill is a provision that would require sheriffs to issue concealed handgun permits within 90 days, unless cause for disapproval is found, whether or not all pertinent records have been gathered.

This section is intended to stop some sheriffs from dragging their feet in approving concealed handgun permit applications under current law.

Language in the bill also would repeal state pistol purchase permit (PPP) law, though handgun sales would still be held to the same standards and background checks as shotguns and rifles. Proponents say that the move closes a loophole caused by the five-year window in which PPP holders can commit a disqualifying offense and still obtain a handgun while their permit is valid.

The bill also adds teeth to existing law that reserves most facets of firearms legislation to the state and not counties and local municipalities.

Under the bill, citizens could bring suit against the local governmental body if they are adversely affected by a local governmental firearms regulation that oversteps state law.

Also included in the bill is language to ban physicians from gathering written information on firearms and ammunition in a patient or patient’s guardian’s home, or from asking a patient to complete a questionnaire asking about those topics.

The legislation also would prevent physicians from disclosing any information to government officials about firearms and ammunition in the home unless a patient has been adjudicated incompetent due to mental illness.

Violation of this would be a finable offense and also be

grounds for disciplinary action by the health care provider’s licensing board.

Iran Divestment Act

Bills likely to pass in the coming weeks include the Iran Divestment Act, which passed out of the Senate at the end of April and now rests in the House Rules Committee.

The act, filed by Sen. Rick Gunn (R-Alamance), would align the state with the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act of 2010, signed into law by President Obama, which authorizes state and local governments to “prevent investment in, including prohibiting entry into or renewing contracts with, companies operating in Iran’s energy sector.”

The act, in accordance with federal legislation, is directed at persons or corporations that put at least \$20 million into Iran’s energy sector or financial institutions that extend a line of credit in excess of \$20 million to the Iranian government.

“It has to meet certain benchmarks,” Gunn said. “This is going after what we think will hurt Iran the most.”

The act is more of a message bill than anything else, as no businesses the state contracts with currently fit the qualifications of the bill. ■



Compromise on Renewable Energy Mandates

4/30/2015
House – Passed Second Reading
This version included an amendment that would freeze state renewable-energy requirements at current levels.

REGULATORY REFORM ACT OF 2015 **HB 760**
SUPPORT

House Republicans (70)
Adams; Arp; Avila; Bishop; Bell J.; Blackwell; Blust; Boles; Bradford; Brawley; Brody; Brown B.; Brown R.; Bryan; Bumgardner; Burr; Cleveland; Collins; Conrad; Daughtry; Dixon; Dobson; Dollar; Elmore; Faircloth; Ford; Fraley; Hager; Hardister; Hastings; Holloway; Horn; Howard; Hurley; Jeter; Johnson L.; Jones; Jordan; Lambeth; Langdon; Lewis; Malone; Martin S.; McElraft; McNeill; Millis; Moore T.; Pendleton; Pittman; Presnell; Riddell; Robinson; Ross; Saine; Setzer; Shepard; Speciale; Stam; Steinburg; Stevens; Szoka; Tine; Torbett; Turner R.; Warren; Watford; West; Whitmire; Yarborough; Zachary

House Democrats (10)
Brisson; C. Graham; Cotham; Floyd; Goodman; Bell L.; Lucas; Moore R.; Waddell; Wray

OPPOSE

House Republicans (1)
McGrady

House Democrats (30)
Adcock; Ager; Alexander; Baskerville; Brockman; Carney; Cunningham; Earle; Fisher; Gill; Graham G.; Hall D.; Hall L.; Hanes; Holley; Hunter; Insko; Jackson; Johnson R.; Luebke; Martin G.; Meyer; Pierce; Turner B.; Queen; Reives; Richardson; Salmon; Terry; Willingham

NOT VOTING (2)
Glazier (D) ; Michaux (D)

ABSENT (6)
Catlin (R); Davis (R); Farmer-Butterfield (D); Hamilton (D); Iler (R); Schaffer (R)

EXC. VOTE
Harrison (D)

SPONSORS Millis (R) **ROLL CALL** 532

Mandating Co-Pays for Chiropractic Charges

4/29/2015
House – Passed Second Reading
The bill would prohibit insurance companies from charging larger co-pays for chiropractic services than that for physicians' services if a similar treatment is provided, instead of allowing insurance companies and consumers to choose what is best for them.

ESTABLISH CHIROPRACTOR CO-PAY PARITY **HB 528**
SUPPORT

House Republicans (39)
Adams; Arp; Avila; Boles; Bradford; Brody; Brown R.; Bumgardner; Burr; Catlin; Daughtry; Dixon; Faircloth; Ford; Fraley; Holloway; Horn; Hurley; Jeter; Johnson L.; Jones; Lambeth; Langdon; Lewis; Malone; Martin S.; McGrady; Presnell; Robinson; Schaffer; Setzer; Shepard; Steinburg; Torbett; Turner R.; Warren; Watford; West; Zachary

House Democrats (29)
Adcock; Ager; Alexander; Baskerville; Bell L.; Brisson; Brockman; Cunningham; Earle; Floyd; Glazier; Goodman; Graham C.; Hall D.; Hanes; Holley; Hunter; Jackson; Johnson R.; Lucas; Martin G.; Pierce; Queen; Reives; Salmon; Turner B.; Waddell; Willingham; Wray

OPPOSE

House Republicans (30)
Bell J.; Bishop; Blackwell; Blust; Brawley; Brown B.; Cleveland; Collins; Dobson; Dollar; Elmore; Hager; Hastings; Howard; Jordan; McElraft; McNeill; Millis; Pendleton; Pittman; Riddell; Ross; Saine; Speciale; Stam; Stevens; Szoka; Tine; Whitmire; Yarborough

House Democrats (13)
Carney; Cotham; Fisher; Gill; Graham G.; Hall L.; Harrison; Insko; Luebke; Meyer; Michaux; Richardson; Terry

NOT VOTING (5)
Bryan (R); Conrad (R); Hardister (R); Moore R. (D); Moore T. (R)

ABSENT (4)
Davis (R); Farmer-Butterfield (D); Hamilton (D); Iler (R)

SPONSORS Burr (R) **ROLL CALL** 524

Extending Renewable Energy Credits

4/1/2015
Senate
Passed Second Reading
4/21/2015
House
Third Reading
This bill would extend by one year a tax credit for renewable energy projects substantially completed by Jan. 1, 2016.

RENEWABLE ENERGY SAFE HARBOR **S 372**
SUPPORT

Senate Republicans (22)
Alexander; Apodaca; Barefoot; Barringer; Berger; Brown; Cook; Curtis; Daniel; Davis J.; Gunn; Hartzell; Jackson B.; McInnis; Pate; Rabin; Rabon; Rucho; Tarte; Tillman; Wade; Wells

Senate Democrats (15)
Blue; Bryant; Clark; Davis D.; Ford; Foushee; Lowe; McKissick; Robinson; Smith; Smith-Ingram; Stein; Van Duyn; Waddell; Woodard

House Republicans (44)
Adams; Bell J.; Bishop; Blust; Bradford; Brawley; Bryan; Burr; Conrad; Daughtry; Davis; Dobson; Dollar; Faircloth; Fraley; Hager; Hastings; Holloway; Horn; Hurley; Iler; Jeter; Johnson L.; Lambeth; Lewis (CHAIR); Malone; Martin S.; McGrady; McNeill; Moore T.; Pendleton; Robinson; Saine; Schaffer; Setzer; Stevens; Szoka; Tine; Torbett; Warren; Watford; West; Yarborough; Zachary

House Democrats (43)
Adcock; Ager; Alexander; Bell L.; Brisson; Brockman; Carney; Cotham; Cunningham; Earle; Farmer-Butterfield; Fisher; Floyd; Graham C.; Graham G.; Gill; Glazier; Goodman; Hall D.; Hall L.; Hamilton; Hanes; Harrison; Holley; Hunter; Insko; Johnson R.; Lucas; Luebke; Martin G.; Meyer; Michaux; Moore R.; Pierce; Queen; Reives; Richardson; Salmon; Terry; Turner B.; Waddell; Willingham; Wray

OPPOSE

Senate Republicans (7)
Brock; Harrington; Krawiec; Randleman; Sanderson; Soucek; Tucker

Senate Democrats (0)
None

House Republicans (28)
Arp; Avila; Blackwell; Boles; Brody; Brown B.; Brown R.; Bumgardner; Catlin; Cleveland; Collins; Dixon; Elmore; Ford; Hardister; Jones; Jordan; Langdon; McElraft; Millis; Pittman; Presnell; Riddell; Shepard; Speciale; Stam; Turner R.; Whitmire

House Democrats (0)
None

NOT VOTING
Senate
Hise (R)
House
Howard (R), Ross (R)

ABSENT
Senate
Jackson J. (D); Meredith (R)
House
Baskerville (D); Jackson (D); Steinburg (R)

EXC. VOTE
Senate
Bingham (R); Lee (R); Newton (R)

SPONSORS Rucho (R) **ROLL CALL** S- 77 H- 272

3rd-Party Payment Interferes in Contracts

4/22/2015
House
Passed Second Reading
This bill would forcibly mandate interference in a contractual agreement between health insurance providers and consumers.

THIRD-PARTY PREMIUM PAYMENTS **HB 809**
SUPPORT

House Republicans (59)
Avila; Blackwell; Blust; Boles; Bradford; Brawley; Brown B.; Brown R.; Bryan; Burr; Catlin; Cleveland; Collins; Conrad; Davis; Dixon; Dobson; Dollar; Elmore; Faircloth; Fraley; Hager; Hardister; Hastings; Holloway; Horn; Hurley; Jeter; Johnson L.; Jones; Lambeth; Langdon; Lewis; Malone; Martin S.; McElraft; McGrady; McNeill; Millis; Pendleton; Pittman; Presnell; Riddell; Robinson; Ross; Schaffer; Setzer; Shepard; Stam; Steinburg; Tine; Torbett; Turner R.; Warren; Watford; West; Whitmire; Yarborough; Zachary

House Democrats (41)
Adcock; Ager; Alexander; Baskerville; Bell L.; Brisson; Brockman; Carney; Cotham; Cunningham; Earle; Farmer-Butterfield; Fisher; Floyd; Gill; Glazier; Goodman; Graham C.; Graham G.; Hall D.; Hall L.; Hamilton; Hanes; Harrison; Hunter; Johnson R.; Lucas; Luebke; Martin G.; Meyer; Michaux; Moore R.; Pierce; Queen; Reives; Richardson; Salmon; Terry; Turner B.; Waddell; Wray

OPPOSE

House Republicans (14)
Adams; Bell J.; Bishop; Brody; Bumgardner; Daughtry; Ford; Howard; Iler; Jordan; Saine; Speciale; Stevens; Szoka

House Democrats (2)
Insko; Willingham

NOT VOTING (2)
Arp (R); T. Moore (R), Speaker

ABSENT (2)
Holley (D); Jackson (D))

SPONSORS Avila (R) **ROLL CALL** 308

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Ending Renewable Energy Mandate

4/22/2015

This vote took place in a House Public Utilities Committee meeting and kept the measure from moving out of the committee. This bill would remove the renewable power portfolio mandate on utilities.

NC ENERGY RATEPAYERS PROTECTION ACT HB 681 (COMMITTEE VOTE)

SUPPORT

House Republicans (14)

Bell J.; Bishop; Blackwell, Brown B., Bumgardner, Catlin, Collins; Conrad; Elmore; Hager; Martin S., Millis, Riddell; Warren

House Democrats (0)

None

OPPOSE

House Republicans (5)

Bradford; Dollar; Hastings; Malone; Watford

House Democrats (11)

Alexander; Cunningham; Earle; Hall D.; Hanes; Harrison; Johnson R.; Luebke; Meyer; Moore R.; Wray

NOT VOTING (2)

Arp (R); Johnson L. (R)

ABSENT (0)

None

SPONSORS Millis (R); Hager (R); Collins (R); Warren (R)

Bill Mandates Autism Coverage

4/28/2015

Senate

Passed Second Reading

This bill would mandate that all insurance policies in NC include coverage for autism treatment.

AUTISM HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE S 676

SUPPORT

Senate Republicans (32)

Apodaca; Barefoot; Barringer; Berger; Bingham; Brock; Brown; Cook; Curtis; Daniel; Davis J.; Gunn; Harrington; Hartsell; Hise; Jackson B.; Krawiec; Lee; McInnis; Meredith; Newton; Pate; Rabin; Rabon; Randleman; Sanderson; Soucek; Tarte; Tillman; Tucker; Wade; Wells

Senate Democrats (15)

Bryant; Clark; D. Davis; Ford; Foushee; J. Jackson; Lowe; McKissick; Robinson; Smith; Smith-Ingram; Stein; Van Duyn; Waddell; Woodard

OPPOSE

Senate Republicans (1)

Rucho

Senate Democrats (0)

None

ABSENT (2)

Blue (D), Alexander (R)

SPONSORS Apodaca (R) ROLL CALL 176

Unemployment Update

Jobless Rate Up in Month, Down Over Year

BY MATT CAULDER

According to a North Carolina Department of Commerce news release, North Carolina's March smoothed seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.4 percent, a 0.1 increase from February's rate.

The March unemployment rate was 1 percentage point lower than a year ago.

The national unemployment rate remained the same at 5.5 percent. The number of people unemployed in the state increased 5,926 over the month to 253,510, with the total number of unemployed declining by 44,460 over the year.

The number of people

employed increased 26,012 over the month to 4,455,283, bringing the total change in employment for the year to an increase of 118,628.

In March, unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted, decreased in 97 counties, and remained unchanged in three. Orange County had the

lowest unemployment rate at 4.1 percent.

Graham County had the highest rate in March with a 13.9 percent unemployment rate.

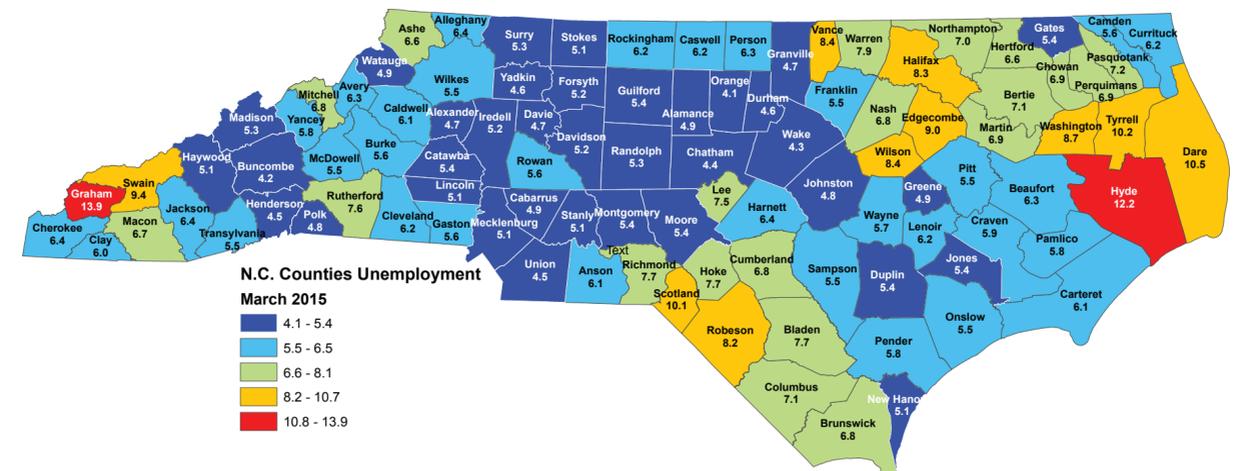
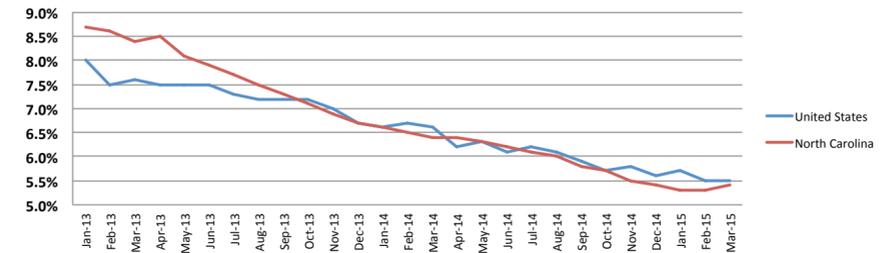
The not-seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 99 counties when compared with the same month last year

and increased in one.

All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

Among metro areas, Rocky Mount experienced the highest unemployment rate at 7.6 percent; Asheville at 4.4 percent had the lowest unemployment rate. ■

North Carolina Unemployment (2013 - 2015)



2008 - 2013 - 2015 N.C. Unemployment Rate Comparison

County	10-08	1-13	3-15	County	10-08	1-13	3-15	County	10-08	1-13	3-15	County	10-08	1-13	3-15
Alamance	7.1	10	4.9	Cumberland	6.8	11	6.8	Johnston	6.1	8.9	4.8	Randolph	6.7	11.1	5.3
Alexander	7.9	10.2	4.7	Currituck	3.6	10.5	6.2	Jones	6.8	10.7	5.4	Richmond	9.5	13.6	7.7
Alleghany	6.6	12.6	6.4	Dare	4.2	20.1	10.5	Lee	8.2	12.7	7.5	Robeson	8.1	13.9	8.2
Anson	9.5	12.8	6.1	Davidson	7.4	10.7	5.2	Lenoir	7.8	10.8	6.2	Rockingham	7.9	11.7	6.2
Ashe	6.3	13.8	6.6	Davie	6.9	9.3	4.7	Lincoln	7.2	10.8	5.1	Rowan	7.2	10.3	5.6
Avery	5.6	13.7	6.3	Duplin	5.9	10.6	5.4	Macon	5.3	13.3	6.7	Rutherford	8.7	14.7	7.6
Beaufort	7.3	11.8	6.3	Durham	5.4	7.9	4.6	Madison	5.7	10.1	5.3	Sampson	5.4	9	5.5
Bertie	7.5	13.5	7.1	Edgecombe	11.4	16.6	9	Martin	6.9	12	6.9	Scotland	11.7	17.8	10.1
Bladen	8.1	13.6	7.7	Forsyth	6.3	9.4	5.2	Mcdowell	8.1	11.9	5.5	Stanly	7	10.1	5.1
Brunswick	6.9	12.2	6.8	Franklin	6.7	9.6	5.5	Mecklenburg	6.6	9.7	5.1	Stokes	6.1	9	5.1
Buncombe	5.1	8.1	4.2	Gaston	7.7	11.1	5.6	Mitchell	7.7	15.5	6.8	Surry	8.3	11.1	5.3
Burke	8.6	11.6	5.6	Gates	5.2	8.3	5.4	Montgomery	8.3	11.1	5.4	Swain	5.5	19	9.4
Cabarrus	6.4	9.4	4.9	Graham	8.2	20.4	13.9	Moore	6.4	10.1	5.4	Transylvania	5	11.5	5.5
Caldwell	8.3	12	6.1	Granville	7	10.3	4.7	Nash	8.6	12.7	6.8	Tyrrell	6	13	10.2
Camden	5.4	9.4	5.6	Greene	7	9.8	4.9	New Hanover	5.4	10.4	5.1	Union	6	8.6	4.5
Carteret	5	10.6	6.1	Guilford	6.7	10.3	5.4	Northampton	7.7	12.1	7	Vance	9.8	13.8	8.4
Caswell	8.2	10.4	6.2	Halifax	9.7	14.7	8.3	Onslow	5.8	9.6	5.5	Wake	5	7.8	4.3
Catawba	7.9	11.6	5.4	Harnett	7.1	11.5	6.4	Orange	4.2	6.6	4.1	Warren	9.7	12.9	7.9
Chatham	5.5	7.5	4.4	Haywood	5.7	10.2	5.1	Pamlico	5.7	11.2	5.8	Washington	7.2	13.5	8.7
Cherokee	8.7	14.1	6.4	Henderson	5.1	7.9	4.5	Pasquotank	6.4	12.4	7.2	Watauga	4.1	9.5	4.9
Chowan	8.5	11.3	6.9	Hertford	6.6	11.5	6.6	Pender	6.4	11.5	5.8	Wayne	6.3	9.8	5.7
Clay	6	10.6	6	Hoke	6.3	9.7	7.7	Perquimans	6.7	11.1	6.9	Wilkes	8.2	11.7	5.5
Cleveland	8.5	11.3	6.2	Hyde	4.6	15.7	12.2	Person	7.3	11.1	6.3	Wilson	7.9	13	8.4
Columbus	8.1	13.8	7.1	Iredell	6.5	10.4	5.2	Pitt	7	9.9	5.5	Yadkin	6.1	10.1	4.6
Craven	6.2	10.8	5.9	Jackson	4.3	11.3	6.4	Polk	5	8.2	4.8	Yancey	7.2	13.8	5.8

*Data is from the North Carolina Department of Commerce Labor and Economic Analysis Division

Bad Bill: Forced Busing Statewide

BY BRIAN BALFOUR

Five years ago, Wake County schools finally ended its policy of forced busing. Wake had long been one of a few remaining holdouts still clinging to this failed experiment that disrupted so many lives.

But Rep. Susi Hamilton (D-New Hanover) is the primary sponsor of a bill to bring forced busing back – and make it statewide.

House Bill 776, Ensure Economic Diversity/Students in Schools, would compel every school district in North Carolina to enforce an assignment formula “that ensures that the percentage of students at a school who qualify to receive free or reduced-price meals does not exceed by more than 15 percentage points the district-wide percentage of such students at the grade levels represented in the school.”

For example, if the number

of students who qualify for free and reduced lunches is 40 percent of the total, then no high school within the district can have more than 55 percent of its students be children eligible for the free or reduced lunch program.

The words “shall establish” indicates this rule would not be optional. If local schools don’t

“School assignments would turn into a massive shell game, shifting students around like pawns on a chessboard.”

comply, the state will take over.

This bill will create massive additional bureaucracy and transportation costs, erode local control of schools, and, most importantly, will randomly force some students to be taken away from their friends and neighborhoods

and bused far away to different schools.

For an example of the logistical nightmare this could create, we can look at figures from Hamilton's home district. Data from New Hanover schools shows that 44 percent of students in the district are enrolled in free or reduced lunch programs. More than

a dozen schools, however, have a percentage of free or reduced lunch enrollees that would exceed the threshold prescribed in Hamilton's bill. In these cases, some students would have to be randomly selected to be forcibly bused to new schools, dragging these

children away from familiar friends, teachers and staff and disrupting their and their families lives.

Moreover, in order to achieve the mandated mix of free and reduced lunch students with students not eligible for the program, some non-eligible children will likewise be forced out of their familiar schools. School assignments would turn into a massive shell game, shifting students around like pawns on a chessboard.

And recall that Hamilton's bill calls for these quotas to be enforced by counting students who would be eligible for the lunch program, not just using those students actually enrolled. For instance, a recent report suggests the number of children qualified for the program in New Hanover could be as much as 50 percent higher than the number of those enrolled. The number

of disrupted lives and schools would grow.

of disrupted lives and schools would grow.

Then imagine the amount of time, research, work and fuel that would need to be devoted to make this happen statewide, as called for in Hamilton's bill. How many more bureaucrats would be needed? How much paperwork? How many buses and bus drivers? How much more fuel and bus repair work?

Finally, how will the students to be forcibly bused to a strange school be selected? A lottery? Alphabetical order? Rock, paper, scissors?

I wonder if Rep. Hamilton has considered how bureaucrats will break the news to the unlucky children who will be forced to move schools, while their classmates get to stay. There is simply no way to make this selection process fair.

That's why House Bill 776 was named a Civitas Bad Bill of the Week. ■

Scandal

Solar PAC Shenanigans – Incompetence or Consultants Trying to Hide Activities?

BY SUSAN MYRICK AND FRANCIS DE LUCA

Starting on the front page, NC Capitol Connection reports on supposedly right-of-center political consultants who are persuading Republican legislators to turn their backs on conservative, free-market principles to take up the cause of more government mandates, political favoritism and higher electric bills by backing “Big Solar.”

The same political consultants named in our Page One story are driving three organizations pushing the “Big

to report at regular intervals each year, we went directly to the NCCEBA PAC’s financial reports on the State Board of Elections website.

What we found was disturbing.

The first red flag was that, without evidence or prompting, on April 2, 2015, NCCEBA PAC amended all but its first finance disclosure reports from the last two years. That first report appeared to be amended in August 2013.

Let us consider findings from

included. In the original report, the \$1,916.61 contribution/disbursement was attributed to NCCEBA. The description

“Again it appears there was an attempt to conceal the amount of money being spent on this effort.”

read, “Covered Cost of NCCEBA Fundraising Event.” Also, in the original report the \$1,916.61 disbursement was listed twice. While this item disappeared in amended

report. The original report listed the \$1,000 expense as an operating expenditure not a “contribution to candidate or

other committee,” indicating that this amount was used to pay for services rendered, in other words something Saine did for the PAC. While this expenditure to Saine

on his disclosure reports but the PAC decided to omit this transaction completely.

Was this another example of not wanting to disclose, or is it simply incompetence?

In short, by no means are these all the problems in the NCCEBA PAC reports. To learn more, go to www.nccivitas.org/2015/big-solar-part2/.

Nor is the above report meant to be a complete rundown. We will continue to investigate who is spending what to advance the Big Solar agenda.

It is feasible that no one will ever know exactly what the PAC did with all of its money or exactly how much money actually flowed through the PAC and was contributed to campaign committees. However, one conclusion can be drawn. It is impossible to believe that professional consultants and lobbyists don’t have the capacity to keep an accurate account of checks in and out or that they are incapable of adding and subtracting.

If incompetence is ruled out, it leaves only one explanation: The reports and amendments were meant to conceal what was going on. ■

Disclosure Report Cover				
Use this form for general report and committee information, must be signed and submitted along with other detailed forms. Do not use this form to update information.				
Amendment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
1. Committee Information				
a. Full Name NORTH CAROLINA CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESS ALLIANCE PAC			c. ID Number STA-E40TNZ-C-001	
b. Mailing Address (include City, State and Zip Code) 19 W HARGETT STREET SUITE 930 RALEIGH, NC 27601			d. Date Filed 03/18/2015	
			e. Phone Number (919) 948-3988	
2. Report Year 2014	3. Period Start Date (mm/dd/yy) 01/01/2014	4. Period End Date (mm/dd/yy) 04/19/2014	5. Treasurer Full Name KRISTEN LASTER	

Solar” scheme and are using a Political Action Committee (PAC) to further this agenda. The key organizations are: North Carolina Clean Energy Business Alliance (NCCEBA); its political action committee (NCCEBA PAC); and the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA).

At Civitas, we reviewed financial reports to find out more about the organizations involved in promoting solar. Since political committees in North Carolina are required

just one campaign reporting time period, comparing the PAC’s original reports with the reports amended on April 2, 2015.

First Quarter 2014 covering January 1, 2014 – April 19, 2014

The amended report covering the first quarter of 2014 was different from the original report in the following ways:

The amended report did not include a \$1,916.61 in-kind contribution and disbursement that the original report

reports, it is clear from the record of contributions that there was a fundraising event on or about the date of the original reported expenditure. Again it appears there was an attempt to conceal the amount of money being spent on this effort.

A more troubling matter is a disbursement in the amount of \$1,000, reported as an operating expense to the (Rep.) Jason Saine Committee in the original report, was not included in the amended

disappeared in a later amended report, it is clear from the other omissions that some of the expenditures actually occurred but a decision was made to not report them. Saine reported this payment as a contribution

LEARN MORE AT
www.nccivitas.org/2015/big-solar-part2

Scandal is a regular column in *Civitas Capitol Connection* that will explore public corruption in NC Government.

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Amount: \$ _____ Expiration: ____ / ____ CVV: _____

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