



State Representative Ric Killian

District 105
Republican Freshman Leader

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Committees:

Appropriations Subcommittee on Capital
Environment & Natural Resources
Homeland Security, Military, and Veterans
Affairs
State Personnel
Transportation
House Select Committee on Home Foreclosures
House Select Committee on Televising
Legislature

2007-2008 Session End of Term Newsletter

Letter From Rep. Killian

To the citizens of District #105,

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a summary of my first term in the North Carolina State House of Representatives. During the past two years, I have worked hard to learn all I can about state government so that I can most effectively advance the issues of Charlotte and our district. I have also worked to establish a reputation as an open, thoughtful, and fair legislator with my fellow Representatives and Senators. I believe my accomplishments this term reflect the strength of the foundation I have built this term. With your support, I will continue to work towards common sense solutions to the challenges we face in Charlotte and across the state.

I consider serving as an elected representative of the people to be a noble public service, and I appreciate your support. Please feel free to contact my office on any matter regarding state government.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you in the North Carolina General Assembly.

Constituent Services

I am committed to serving the people of District 105 to the best of my ability, and to do so, I must be kept informed through active dialogue with my constituents. Your interest and input is very important in order for those of us in the General Assembly to know and be aware of what North Carolina's citizens are thinking and feeling.

Please write or call with any NC State Government problems or legislative issues of interest to you.

The Honorable Ric Killian
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State of our State: Important Legislation (2007-2008)

HB 2436 - Modify Appropriations Act of 2007 (FY 2009 Budget)

The 2008-2009 expansion budget appropriates \$21.4 billion; is 3.4% greater than the 2007-2008 budget and nearly 14% greater than the budget of the last term. This increase is in spite of notice that tax collections for 2008 would be \$63 million lower than forecasted and that economic uncertainty would shave \$45 million from expected revenues in 2009. Additionally, new debt not subject to voter approval in the budget totals \$858 million, the highest amount in four years, including \$50 million for public land, which is subject to voter approval. With over \$2 billion in new borrowing in the past eight years, annual debut service of nearly \$700 million, an under funded reserve, and a state health plan out of money, I consider this budget irresponsible. Possibly even more troubling is that even with this spending our state government is ignoring real and growing state level problems in criminal justice and transportation.

I consider lack of fiscal discipline in our state government to be a major threat to the future of North Carolina, and will continue to fight for spending restraint.

HB 2367 - Involuntary Annexation Moratorium

North Carolina is one of only four states to allow property to be involuntary annexed by a city without meaningful consultation with property owners. Current law provides citizens with very limited recourse when their land and homes are about to be involuntarily annexed.

I am committed to reforming North Carolina's involuntary annexation laws, which is why I cosponsored this bill. HB 2367 passed with a large margin in the Finance Committee, but was weakened in the Judiciary II Committee. After a successful effort to restore teeth to the bill, the Moratorium passed in the House. When it arrived in the Senate, Senator Tony Rand, Democrat Majority Leader, assigned the bill to his Rules Committee and declared it dead.

The House Select Committee on Municipal Annexation proposed a temporary one-year moratorium on involuntary annexation to allow time for further study with a goal of enacting reforms in 2009.

HB 2499 - Drought/Water Management Recommendations

This new law gives new drought/water management powers to the state in 2008, which authorizes the Governor to set water restrictions statewide. This policy centralizes water-management policies and requires notification of large groundwater transfers.

The plan also calls for the state to identify "all other large water users" and would grant the secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources the authority to "require additional reporting as necessary during periods of drought."

I fought against this bill both in Environment and Natural Resources committee and on the House floor because of its disregard for private property rights, but more importantly because it did nothing to promote drought relief.

HB 933 - Jessica Lunsford Act for NC

The new law increases penalties from sexual predators convicted of crimes against children. Adult offenders convicted of specific sex crimes against children under the age of thirteen will be given mandatory sentences of at least 25 years and be monitored by satellite for life if released. The law is named for 9 year old Jessica Lunsford, a former Gaston County resident who was raped and buried alive by a repeat sex offender in Florida in 2005.

2008 Short Session Highlight:(Television Bill)

During this term I have gained an appreciation for the gap between Charlotte and the North Carolina State Government in Raleigh. To bridge this gap I filed a bill (with over 60 signatures from both Democrat and Republican members of the State House), to study televising the state legislature. As a result, the Speaker of the House formed and placed me on the committee. My hope is that this begins the process of educating Charlotte area citizens of their state government in Raleigh.

State of the District

District Issue: Roads

Every resident of south Charlotte knows that traffic congestion worsens every day, and is frustrated knowing plans for improvements are continually delayed. There is a long history as to how this situation came to be, but there seems to no clear plan for solving this problem.

The economic engine driving North Carolina is the I-85 corridor from Belmont to Garner. North Carolina must prioritize creating and sustaining the infrastructure necessary to continue to attract business, and provide the quality of life necessary to sustain those businesses and their employees. Continued neglect of our road infrastructure threatens North Carolinas future, and this could not be more evident than in south Charlotte where citizens spend more time in traffic every day.

The solution to the problem must include all levels of government, and cooperation from all citizens of North Carolina.

First, the existing funding formula must be changed to include a congestion factor. This will provide a more equitable distribution of funds to those areas of North Carolina with the most significant growth related demands.

Second, the annual transfer from the Highway Trust Fund to the General Fund of approximately \$170 million must be stopped immediately. This session I introduced **HB215**, which proposed eliminating this transfer. Unfortunately, this bill was not even allowed to be heard in committee. Since 1989, the Highway Trust Fund has transferred over \$3 billion to the general fund. This is more than enough money to have completed I-485 and expanded the south section.

Finally, we must initiate a complete review of our state infrastructure, determine our future needs, and develop a plan to meet those needs. We must consider reorganizing the DOT, eliminating the political Advisory Board, prioritizing the needs, and providing a funding source (including the General Fund) for completing the plan.

Recent Transportation Update-

Legislation passed in the 2008 short session establishes financing for the North Carolina Turnpike Authority, and within our region the Monroe Bypass and Garden State Parkway. The establishment of this funding source essentially frees saved resources within Division 10. I am working directly with our representative on the NCDOT Advisory Board, the Division 10 Manager, and other Mecklenburg County legislators to establish and forward a plan to complete I-485 and widen the section between I-77 and Johnston Road as soon as possible.

District Issue: Crime

I am concerned with crime in our community. I believe that our government has few responsibilities, but one is to keep its citizens safe. While our law enforcement agencies do their best to keep us safe, they cannot be in all places at all times. Therefore, we as citizens must take a more proactive stance on prevention.

What we do if we couldn't afford the luxury of public law enforcement agencies, or if we didn't have a judicial and penal system? Every citizen must be more aware of their personal security and take measures to protect themselves, their families, and their neighbors.

One issue I am working on for upcoming sessions is the matter of personal information on DMV registrations. Many constituents have contacted me regarding their vehicle being broken into and personal information stolen from their DMV records. I am currently working hand in hand with the DMV to try to find a solution to this growing problem that will satisfy the DMV, law enforcement, and most importantly YOU and your safety.

Other than military experience, I do not have a law enforcement background and therefore do not pretend to have the answers. Simply put, I encourage every citizen to take ownership of their respective neighborhoods and with the help of law enforcement discourage criminals from making a home in their community.

Ric Killian Visits NC Airmen in Saudi Arabia



Earlier this year I had the honor of visiting members of the 145th Security Forces Squadron of the NC Air Guard in Eskan Village Riyadh Saudi Arabia. I was joined by Brigadier General Clontz and Lieutenant Colonel Friend. The Squadron's deployment is in support of the Global War on Terror.

While visiting the North Carolina airmen, I immersed myself in the events that make up the daily life of the deployed airmen including a morning Physical Training run. Later, we toured the base area facilities, visited defensive fighting positions on the installation and participated in demonstrations of various security systems.

Our talks with the front-line troops revealed needs and concerns that I brought back to the NC General Assembly and Military Affairs Committee.

We concluded our visit with an Awards Ceremony where I presented each member of the Squadron a Certificate of Appreciation from the North Carolina General Assembly.

Lt. Colonel Friend remarked that **the trip was a significant morale booster for his troops**, and that they were very honored that a legislator came all the way to Saudi Arabia to meet with them, and discuss their concerns, mid-deployment.

During the Award Ceremony I thanked each member of the Squadron for their service on behalf of all North Carolinians. We must all remember the sacrifice our servicemen, both active and reserve, and their families.

Legislation Summary

- Bills Sponsored: 117
- Bills Primary Sponsored: 20
- Bills Passed House: 23
- Bills Passed into Law: 5

For more information on legislative activity visit:
[http:// www.ncga.state.nc.us/homepage.pl](http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/homepage.pl)

Highlights of New Laws:

- HB 1357 - [Military Children May Attend Public Schools](#)
- HB 2266 - [Honor 100th Anniversary of Army Reserve](#)
- HB666 (passed as SB581) - [Building Permit Reductions/Rebates](#)

Awards & Significant Accomplishments

- Elected **Republican Freshman Leader**
- One of three members selected to attend and completed the inaugural session of **Center for Advancement of Leadership Skills** Seminar in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Honored by The Concerned Bikers Association of North Carolina with the **2007 Patriot Statesman** and **2007 Constitution Preservationist Award**.
- **Passing five new state laws**
- **Selection on two House Select Committees**
- **Delegate, Republican National Convention**

Final Thoughts

Regardless of your political affiliation, I encourage all citizens to become more informed of the activities of their state government. State government affects our lives in many different ways and is too important to ignore. I hope you found this newsletter informative.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve you, and do not hesitate to contact me on matters involving your state government.

Ric Killian

