



**SENATOR JERRY TILLMAN
SENATE MAJORITY WHIP**

SENATE UPDATE

April 5, 2018



JOBS COMING TO RANDOLPH COUNTY

The company Fibertex has broken ground on a site in Randolph County where they plan to build a new manufacturing facility. The site is located at 850 Pineview Road in Asheboro where the Goodyear wire plant campus used to be. Construction will begin in a few weeks, and production is expected to start within a year.

Fibertex Personal Care, based out of Denmark, is among the world's largest manufacturers of spunbound/spunmelt nonwovens used in the personal care industry. Company CEO Mikael Axelson announced that he is in talks with NCWorks to begin the hiring process as early as next month for the Randolph County expansion. The company is estimated to bring a \$114 million investment and 145 jobs to the local economy according to Will Miller, N.C. Department of Commerce assistant secretary.

This is yet another example of what good economic policy and favorable tax laws bring to North Carolina. When state and local government work hand in hand, good things like Fibertex result.

**Courtesy of The Courier-Tribune*

A LOOK AT EDUCATION ADVANCES IN NORTH CAROLINA

Since 2011, legislative Republicans have invested nearly \$2 billion additional dollars into K-12 public education, increasing funding every year. Since 2013, we've provided teachers an average pay raise between 15.25 and 22.11 percent, and we've raised starting teacher pay by \$5,000.

We've also increased pre-K funding every year since 2013.

This past year's budget:

- Increased funding for public education by nearly \$700 million over the next two years.
- Continued a multiple-year plan to dramatically increase teacher pay, providing teachers an average 3.3 percent raise this year and 9.6 percent raise over two years, while also ensuring they earn far more over the course of their careers. It also provided substantial pay raises to school principals and assistant principals.
- Provided additional performance-based bonuses to more public school teachers who help improve academic outcomes for their students.
- Acted to make college far more affordable and accessible by fully funding the N.C. Promise Program, which guarantees in-state undergraduate students at three schools across the state pay just \$500 per semester for tuition.
- Added thousands of slots to the state's pre-K program and eliminated 75 percent of the waitlist for at-risk children.

- Created a new North Carolina Teaching Fellows program to attract and retain new teachers to low-performing schools and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math courses.
- Took action to improve student outcomes in the early grades by phasing in smaller class sizes and lower student-to-teacher ratios in kindergarten through third grade classrooms, providing millions of additional state dollars to fund special subject area teachers and eliminating the state's Pre-K waiting list.

In terms of major reform, legislators are making efforts to:

- Improve student literacy and graduation rates – particularly through the Read to Achieve program that is designed to ensure children can read by the end of third grade. It's a proven fact that being able to read by fourth grade dramatically improves students' chances of graduating from high school.
- Reform the outdated base teacher pay scale and ensure teachers have far greater earnings potential over the course of their careers.
- Incentivize outstanding performance and provide financial rewards for teachers who go above and beyond to help students succeed – for example, by creating performance-based bonuses to teachers who help students make the most progress and achieve the greatest growth in their studies.
- Give parents freedom to choose schools that best fit the needs of their children – by expanding public charter schools, creating new education grants for children with learning disabilities and providing opportunity scholarships for low-income families.
- Tackle the affordability of college by guaranteeing no tuition increases during a student's four years at state universities and cutting the cost of tuition to just \$500 per semester at three campuses.



Senator Tillman with Representative Saine, House and Senate Finance Chairs, at the Lincoln Day Event in Randolph County

A SECOND SPECIAL PROSECUTOR?

Maybe we need a second special prosecutor to look into the real illegal activities (past and present) in Washington DC, and for honest investigations of the FBI, Hillary Clinton, leaks of information from the White House, and the unsavory and unethical behavior of special prosecutor Robert Mueller. Mueller has spent millions of dollars and a year investigating non issues. His motive is to damage President Trump and vindicate his friend Jim Comey.

Of course if Mueller is fired – as he should be, then Jeff Sessions could name a real special prosecutor – one not biased and pre-judgmental like the one we have. Will this happen? Not as long as Sessions is Attorney General. Sessions is afraid to do anything. Is he scared of being fired? He has every right to be afraid. Not for doing something, but for not doing anything at all...

We'll see...

THREE ISSUES SPELL TROUBLE FOR COOPER

Democrat Governor Roy Cooper plans to run for re-election. Three issues will make his re-election difficult if not unlikely.

- Decision to remove all confederate statutes. To ignore the past and try to remove it from the public will not be popular with the center right voters I know. In a close election, this issue alone could tip the scale against the Governor.
- Decision to seek repeal of GOP tax cuts. Governor, you recently made a public statement that you would seek repeal of our GOP tax cuts. By the way, these significant business and personal tax cuts have put North Carolina one of the leading states in job creation, business expansion, and tax favorability ratings in the nation. Such a repeal would take over 2 billion dollars out of the pockets of North Carolina businesses and families. Don't think I'd want to run on this one either, Governor.
- Oil pipeline slush fund. This is just another example of poor judgement or possibly other nefarious decisions. You will recall recent questionable activity by Cooper and his close advisors.

NORTH CAROLINA ADDS 85,000 JOBS OVER YEAR

Employment figures recently released by the state Department of Commerce show North Carolina added 85,879 jobs over the last year.

The number of people unemployed decreased by 20,263 over the year.

The employment growth data follows a positive revenue outlook released by the state legislature's Fiscal Research Division in January showing tax collections on track and an economy in a stable growth pattern.

BIBLE VERSES:

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.” – Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV)

Senator Jerry Tillman can be reached on Facebook

Are you on Facebook?

You can reach Senator Jerry Tillman by going to this page:

<http://www.facebook.com/jerrywtillman>

If you don't have a Facebook account, you can sign up for an account so you can start getting Jerry's updates.

Then tell your friends and neighbors who might want to know what Jerry is doing in Raleigh for the folks in Randolph and Moore counties.

You Can Follow Senator Tillman on Twitter

Go to <http://www.twitter.com/jerrytillman> and sign up to follow Senator Tillman.

SENATOR JERRY TILLMAN

SENATE MAJORITY WHIP

309 Legislative Office Building

Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Phone: 919.733.5870

Fax: 919.754.3339

jerry.tillman@ncleg.net