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## Newsletter from Senator Joel Ford

Joel Ford [joeldford@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 9:44 AM

To: Steve Johnston



Vol. 2, Ed. 15

April 7, 2016



### Committees

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Greetings Constituents and Friends,

The Legislative interim period is winding down and the 2016 Short Session begins on April 25<sup>th</sup>. There has been a flurry of interim committee meetings.

One committee of which I am a member, the LRC Committee on Barriers to Access to Credit and Capital, met to discuss initiatives relating to small business development and growth. A small business is defined as an independently owned and operated company that is limited in size and in revenue, relative to the industry. One of the major obstacles faced by small businesses is access to capital.

Listed below are various small business resources designed to help small companies with financing, business mentoring, and other tools for growth, development and success. I am fully committed to helping build our business climate to create more good paying jobs for North Carolinians.

Please kindly forward this newsletter to your family and friends so they can stay in the loop as to what is going on in Raleigh. Send us their contact information so we can add them to our Newsletter listserv!

As always, please continue to refer to the North Carolina General Assembly [www.ncleg.net/](http://www.ncleg.net/), to track information on committee meetings, bill status, legislative updates, etc. The North Carolina state government website, [www.ncgov.com](http://www.ncgov.com), is helpful for in-depth information regarding our state resources.

### \*\*\*LEGISLATIVE UPDATE/INFO\*\*\*

| Senator Joel Ford<br>2016 Legislative Interim Committee Assignments             |              |
|---|--------------|
| Committee Name  | Meeting Date |
| Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Capital Improvements                   | 4-13-16      |
| Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations                         | TBA          |
| Committee on Regulatory and Rate Issues in Insurance – LRC 2015                 | 4-07-16      |
| Revenue Laws Study Committee  | TBA          |
| Committee on Barriers to Small Business Access to Credit and Capital – LRC 2015 | 4-06-16      |
| Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee                            | 4-08-16      |
| Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting - 2015                    | 2-17-16      |

The LRC Committee on Barriers to Small Business Access to Credit and Capital recently held discussions on expanding small business ownership and economic opportunity. The following resources should be

very helpful to small businesses and individuals seeking small business financing:

**The Support Center**- a statewide nonprofit and Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that provides small business loans and financial training to start-ups and existing businesses and lending services to community-based organizations, <https://thesupportcenter-nc.org/>.

Main Office: 3128 Highwoods Blvd., Suite 170, Raleigh, NC 27601, Tel: (919) 803-1437

Charlotte Office: 2015 Ayrslay Town Blvd, Suite 202, Charlotte, NC 28273, Tel: (704) 280-8336

**N.C. Rural Economic Development Center**- a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization designed to develop, promote and implement sound economic strategies to improve the quality of life of rural North Carolinians and deliver resources for rural people, businesses and communities, <http://www.ncruralcenter.org/>.

**U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)** – a federal government agency whose mission is to help Americans start, build and grow businesses, <https://www.sba.gov/>.

Headquarters: 409 3rd St, SW, Washington, DC 20416

N.C. District Office: 6302 Fairview Road, Suite 300, Charlotte, NC 28210, Tel: (704) 344-6563

**Self-Help Credit Union**- a community development financial institution which provides responsible and affordable financial services to families and small businesses, <https://www.self-help.org/>.

Charlotte Lending Office: 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Suite 302, Charlotte, NC 28204, Tel: (704) 409-5900

**N.C. Small Business and Technology Development Centers (SBTDC)**- a business advisory resource for growing and developing businesses which provide statewide services from offices hosted by campuses of The University of North Carolina System and operates in partnership with the U.S. SBA, <http://www.sbtcd.org/>.

Charlotte Office (UNC-Charlotte): PORTAL Building, Suite 252, 9319 Robert D Snyder Rd., Charlotte, NC 28223 Tel: (704) 687-0440

**SCORE**- a 501(c)(3) nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to educating entrepreneurs and providing free business mentoring services to help small businesses start, grow, and succeed nationwide. SCORE is a resource partner with the U.S. SBA., <https://www.score.org>.

Charlotte SCORE: 6302 Fairview Road, Suite 300, Charlotte, NC 28210, Tel: (704) 344-6576

**Small Business Center Network (SBCN)** – a network, comprised of 58 Small Business Centers throughout North Carolina, that supports the development of new businesses and the growth of existing businesses by providing community-based training, counseling, and resource information, <https://www.ncsbc.net/>. SBCN is a community college funded initiative with offices located in each of NC's Community College System.

Charlotte Area SBCN: Central Piedmont Community College, Small Business Center, Hall Building, Suite 214, 1112 Charlottetowne Avenue, Charlotte, NC 282 , Tel: 704-330-6736

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### \*\*\*DISTRICT/RELATED NEWS\*\*\*

**Tax Filing Deadline Approaching** - The deadline for filing a 2015 federal and North Carolina income tax return is Monday, April 18, 2016. If you require extra time to file a return, you may obtain an extension; however, please remember if you owe taxes, filing an extension does not extend the time to pay taxes. For additional information, feel free to visit the Internal Revenue Service website, <https://www.irs.gov/Filing/Extension-of-Time-To-File-Your-Tax-Return>, and/or the North Carolina Department of Revenue website, <http://www.dor.state.nc.us/taxes/individual/extension.html>.

**Literacy With A Purpose** – Come join a fun-filled event with celebrity readers, food and fun on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 am- 12 pm, Fourth Ward Barber and Styling, 516 N. Graham St in Charlotte. This project is sponsored by the NC Local Barber Association and designed to help create the love of reading and foster literacy skills with children, particularly boys ages 4-10 years old.

**International Paper** - I recently toured International Paper Company's box plant located at 5419 Hovis Road in Charlotte. It was great to meet with Kenneth Lin, Regional Government Relations Manager, and the International Paper team. A global leader in packaging, paper and pulp, International Paper manufacturers corrugated products in Charlotte, and has five facilities statewide. Its North Carolina workforce consists of 1400 employees. International Paper is now hiring. Average pay is \$20 per hour. Average yearly salary with overtime is \$50k with healthcare and pension plans. Work conditions include no climate control, noisy, and long hours. Apply: <http://www.internationalpaper.com/careers>.



*Kenneth Lin, Sen. Joel Ford and Rep. Beverly Earle*

**Wire Technicians Still Needed** – AT&T continues to recruit wire technicians for immediate openings in its North Carolina company locations in Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro, and Greenville. Candidates must have strong communication skills, a valid state driver's license, pre-employment screening qualifications among other skills. Please apply via the website, [www.att.jobs/](http://www.att.jobs/) and search by state or position title. The following video link may be helpful, <https://zoomforth.com/s/att/technician-job-description-videos#section/hdrrxt/458674>.

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**\*\*\*SPECIAL THANKS\*\*\***

Thank you for voicing your issues, thoughts, and concerns through your many e-mails, phone calls, and office visits. I appreciate receiving input from you and am honored to be serving you in the 2015-16 Legislative Session. Please feel free to contact me or my office.

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General NCGA Information



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