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- 5. Legislative and gubernatorial appointments; and
- 6. Conference reports.

Unfortunately, "conference reports" are controlled by a few legislative leaders and allow those leaders to put pretty much whatever content they want in a bill and then bring it up for a vote with no amendments allowed and no time for public input.

The bottom line is pretty much any topic is eligible to be considered next week, but what is considered is under the strict control of a few legislative leaders.

Judge Halts Implementation of NC Photo ID Law

Voters approved an amendment to the North Carolina constitution in 2018 to require in-person voters to show a photo identification. Immediately after the 2018 election, but before newly-elected legislators could take office, the General Assembly approved the law to implement the new photo ID requirement.

The new law allowed voters to use some photo IDs, but did not allow other photo IDs. For example, a federal ID could get you in the Pentagon but not a North Carolina voting booth. Governor Cooper vetoed the new law, but his veto was overridden by the Republican legislators who had just lost their supermajority a few weeks earlier.

Last week a federal judge ordered the State of North Carolina to stop its implementation of the new photo ID law because of significant evidence that the new law was racially discriminatory. The State of North Carolina will appeal the judge's ruling, but, for now, there is no requirement to show a photo ID in the upcoming March primary.

Agreement Reached to Remove NC Coal Ash

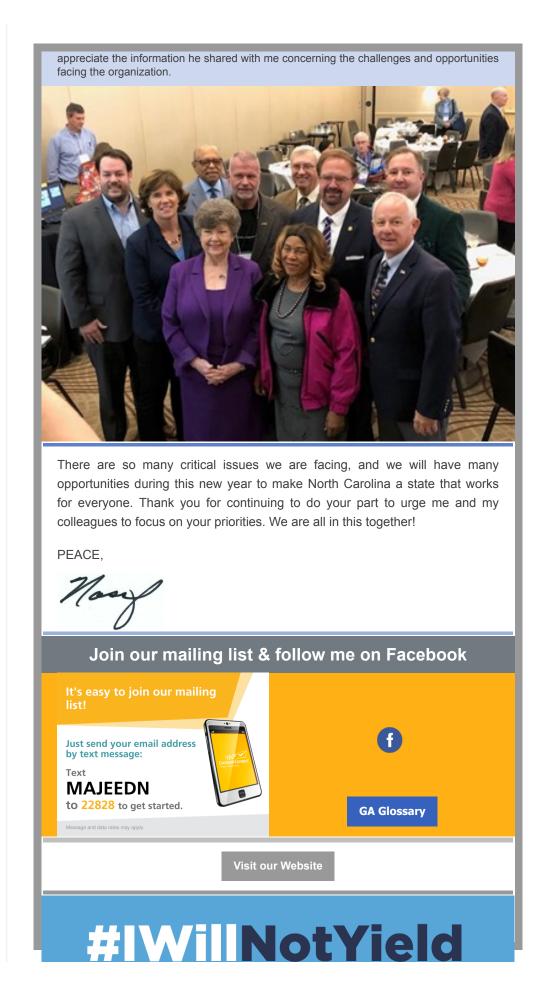
The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has secured the excavation of nearly 80 million tons of coal ash at six facilities in North Carolina. Under a settlement agreement with community and environmental groups and Duke Energy, Duke Energy will move forward with excavation plans at the Allen, Belews Creek, Cliffside, Marshall, Mayo and Roxboro sites, moving coal ash into on-site lined landfills.

The excavation is the largest coal ash clean up in the nation's history and will result in more excavation than in four neighboring states combined.

The agreement also requires Duke to enter into a court-supervised consent order with DEQ and the community groups represented by Southern Environmental Law Center.

Pictured Below: Legislators from the Charlotte Region met at the University Hilton for the annual state meeting of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. I had the pleasure of meeting Association President, Miles Payne, and I really

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