

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**Committee on Public Affairs**

**March 3, 2016**

4. Connect NC Bond Resolution ..... Joan Perry

**Situation:** On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016, North Carolina Voters will be voting on the Connect NC Bond referendum, which includes over \$1 billion worth of projects system-wide. The bond package includes a variety of other investments, but include significant funds for the North Carolina Community College System, water/sewer infrastructure projects, parks/zoos maintenance, and National Guard upgrades across the state.

**Background:** During the 2015 legislative session, the North Carolina General Assembly approved a \$2 billion bond package, which contained a number of UNC Board of Governor priorities. The Board of Governors approved in 2015 a prioritized list of investments, which focused on STEM projects, many of which were included in the bond package. This is the first major statewide capital bond package since 2001.

Since being signed into law, the University and our institutions have been hard at work to inform voters across the state of the upcoming vote. Chancellors have been spreading the word through numerous speaking engagements, including many with their Community College counterparts.

UNC institutions have partnered with the Connect NC bond committee to create videos and crafted letters to the editor, while also encouraging local community partners, such as Chambers of Commerce, to endorse the Connect NC proposals. We will share several examples of the work from the institutions.

**Assessment:** The Connect NC bond package is the largest investment in UNC capital projects in over a decade. These investments will allow UNC institutions to better prepare students for their future employment opportunities, while also creating a modern worksite for our faculty.

**Action:** This item is for a vote on a resolution for the UNC Board of Governors to support the Connect NC Bonds.



**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE  
\$2 BILLION CONNECT NC BOND  
FOR EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, PARKS, WATER & SEWER, AND SECURITY**

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina has seen its population grow by 2 million people since 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Connect NC Bond recognizes the need to repair and expand existing infrastructure to ensure we can meet the demands of our growing population, continue to create new jobs, and grow our economy; and

**WHEREAS**, our higher education systems of community colleges and public universities are primary drivers of job creation in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, \$1.3 billion will be invested across the state's public higher education community for capital construction, repair, and renovation; and

**WHEREAS**, the University of North Carolina system will receive more than \$1 billion for targeted capital investments, with a heavy focus on facilities for STEM fields and health professions, as well as critical renovations and repairs to other important academic facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, these investments will help the University continue to meet the state's economic, scientific, health care, and workforce needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the state's community colleges also will benefit from new construction, repairs, and renovations; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly \$700 million will be invested in other critical needs including the National Guard, 48 state parks and the NC Zoo, and water and sewer projects statewide;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the University of North Carolina Board of Governors supports the \$2 Billion Connect NC Bond that invests in North Carolina's future, and urges all North Carolinians to Vote Yes in the Primary Election on Tuesday, March 15, 2016.

Unanimously Adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2016.

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W. Louis Bissette, Jr., *Chairman*

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Joan Templeton Perry, *Secretary*