 

**VIRTUAL POSTCARD PARTY #173 May 15, 2020**

To stay on top of COVID-19 announcements and happenings in NC, Gov. Cooper has set up a useful text messaging system. To enroll, just text COVIDNC to 898211.

**FEDERAL**

**SUPPORT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES’ PROPOSAL FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF PANDEMIC RELIEF MEASURES**

The bill proposed by House Democrats includes nearly $1 trillion for state, local, and tribal governments and territories. We will be unsafe and insecure if reactionary Republicans force the furlough of tens of thousands of front-line workers who keep us safe.

**Email or send a postcard to Sen. Thom Tillis and Sen. Richard Burr to support the House bill to provide necessary relief to state and local governments dealing with enormously reduced sales tax and other revenues, so that they can continue to implement COVID-19 mitigation and treatment efforts, and can continue to carry out their essential governmental functions that address the pressing needs and responsibilities of both “blue” states and “red” states. Reject the Moscow Mitch race to the bottom.**

**SUPPORT #ProtectOurVote IN SEVERAL WAYS**

House Democrats [have introduced a $3 trillion coronavirus spending bill](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/-wA/ni0YAA/t.31q/AklsmXQaQ6SnttCrBAXV6A/h14/uTjwWbnOEn8QqC1FO-2BOpUQR1LDcyF7u6n8zWM-2BtRcaDcTMi9Duv0yBl93158QB2Z2IxeEMVefdm05JHoiBEPI88XAjVc4FfqPq1YrKUl5gJRnEMkAj0AcM0-2BjDjsvEkleY4f7eOf1sNWaLgANDZAuaOb3mXD7ya-2BHYNcmw7drGz17bJvgla2aOcLrnRGh5oX322u8unLV63CTCU541Cw-2BCWG2zq6uGDAqbpWFOxVk4HTm-2FSxiD2Cy5nxRCT4yXy6oaUt-2FJ15IoIKrKJfMrVu9cz3vbNalf7oHV8uaRp7xTe-2BYNz0ASpdJ2LkdUUUWr0o5x-2FnFzKkdSrOronc2IdIEJjqlYOhKluGgVPfzdKcBkGjrWW-2BJpk3JGQkWHifPDuVnIHVD0q-2FZcY6YF-2BOWxEkdvKHRH4EXrTy84DMNPwc6xAwWlTTSgPJLZAZaQyNJAtG-2FDmcmtg8fDTmpNI4Y6TWSoNkzsxawvyMVLXIK8TyUIGdrwoBy26Nq1aYtMrPi3IS90bvGi-2FCb8cDpQWI0HdeIojUCFYmqWmA-2BMWGJrNspks-3D/sfHs) that includes a number of provisions affecting elections and voting, including $25 billion in funding for the U.S. Postal Service to prevent it from running out of operating funds before November. The bill would also allocate $3.6 billion in grants to states and [include mandates that they establish](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/-wA/ni0YAA/t.31q/AklsmXQaQ6SnttCrBAXV6A/h15/uTjwWbnOEn8QqC1FO-2BOpUf0K4ZmpPnPYSQxcCvESc75MsFwtzgTqiAxwMJcTqTcvAbcH1J5OUAQFle-2B9-2FZMAT7wlTHh-2FpdGS89BxEwJH4K-2FPtPGUsPd5G7arNfsdMA4QRpakChIcp9GfDtr7zi9LKoXy-2Bah6OMAoPGynjGnKAfC15c6rQrq78-2FUoQ1ck4BGlw-2Fc3Ytocfx9zWUU7HYcLQf2e4ZUtBv-2BpPqvfJF7MktSs9PHFUzR68yNBkd-2F5WSEeVL4dzIbKyxv1F66kOjQ4vk02mM5LL5pxsQydzsK0FyR7RL3Fh24xb9WnsvsucXBfB6cOY5yOIH9nKGhXGom-2Bm-2FU9DptLbf080qCFkb8-2FXnSkGLZdU3ufwQHtgom5wEGa439OIuljZV-2F-2BJwD2Qa-2BXfOs-2Ff179acSxzyP5zT0pgu-2FeLnl6LVoevKsE7fkMUy5re-2F0lceMtItMynOghEsSMzYk-2Fr2Y61x25BiKK0L2qYyU-3D/k152):

* 15 days of early voting;
* Online voter registration;
* Same-day voter registration;
* No-excuse mail voting upon request;
* Universal voting-by-mail in emergency situations like the current pandemic;
* Prepaid postage on mail ballot materials;
* No witness, notary, or voter ID requirements for mail ballots;
* A non-arbitrary process for matching voter signatures that gives voters a chance to correct problems;
* Ballots will count so long as they're postmarked by Election Day and received within a few days afterward;

**Contact Sen. Burr and Sen. Tillis to tell them to support the House bill over all, with specific reference to the provisions that affect elections and voting. Tell them to publicly push back on unelected, ignorant Jared Kushner’s false suggestion that the mal-administration has the power and authority to cancel the November 3 election.**

**Share the new video just released supporting the effort:
Retweet: Twitter:**[**https://twitter.com/DFADCoalition/status/1260237251520364544**](https://twitter.com/DFADCoalition/status/1260237251520364544)

* **Share: Facebook:**[**https://www.facebook.com/DFADCoalition/videos/548184392759625**](https://www.facebook.com/DFADCoalition/videos/548184392759625)

**NATIONAL**

The meat-packing industry is one of the hotspots for transmission of COVID-19 in many states. Pres. Trump has ordered the meat-packing factories that had closed due to worker and community spread outbreaks to reopen, without any substantial required plans and safeguards for workers’ health and safety, and with apparent extensions of liability relief for these very large and profitable corporations. All these companies say that they are taking steps to protect their workers, but one must take their public relations with several grains of salt.

**Write to the CEOs of these companies to tell them what you expect from them. One may suggest that the best solution for the future is to have the federal government legislate the transfer of ownership of the companies from stockholders to stakeholders as soon as Donald Trump is out of office next year.**

JBS USA Holdings
Andre Nogueira, CEO
1770 Promontory Circle
Greeley, CO 80634

Noel W. White, CEO

Tyson Foods, Inc.
5200 Ibp Ave
Dakota City, NE 68731

Tim M. Klein

National Beef Packing Company, LLC [Re: Tama, IA plant]
P.O. Box 20046 Kansas City, MO 64195-0046

**Write letters of support to the United Food and Commercial Workers to thank them for vigorously representing these workers and to indicate you will continue to advocate for union organizing rights, including repeal of “right to work” legislation.**

Mark Lauritsen

United Food and Commercial Workers

2230 Zion Hill Rd

Morganton, NC 28655

**STATE**

**SUPPORT GRADUAL AND LAWFUL REOPENING BASED ON PUBLIC HEALTH EVIDENCE AND MEDICAL SCIENCE; OPPOSE S712 AS A CRUDE POLITICAL STUNT SIGNALING ANTI-GOVERNMENT REACTIONARY IDEOLOGY TO THE TRUMP BASE**

A [new bill proposed](https://www.newsobserver.com/news/coronavirus/article242534961.html) 5/5/20 in the North Carolina General Assembly would allow businesses and individuals to violate several of Gov. Roy Cooper’s coronavirus-related executive orders with no meaningful consequences. The “NC Freedom to Work” Act has the support of an unsurprising number of “conservatives” in the state Senate. It would allow businesses to reopen as they wish with a $25 civil fine and no criminal charges instead of a fine up to $1,000 or criminal charges if in violation of NC social distancing requirements. It is designed to be retroactive to March 17 and would essentially erase all penalties for highly irresponsible and dangerous behavior since the beginning of Gov. Cooper’s state mandates. A bill summary is at <https://lrs.sog.unc.edu/bill-summaries-lookup/S/712/2019-2020%20Session/S712> .

Read more here: [https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/coronavirus/article242552241.html?#storylink=cpy](https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/coronavirus/article242552241.html#storylink=cpy)

It’s unclear whether the bill could get enough support to pass in the House and Senate, The News & Observer reports.

Sen. Warren Daniel (R-46) introduced the bill; it has 27 cosponsors, INCLUDING CHUCK EDWARDS. It passed its “first reading” on 5/7/20.

**Contact Speaker Moore, Senate President Pro Tem Berger to tell them to quash this call to unlawful behavior. Contact Sen. Chuck Edwards to tell him what you think of his judgment and unconscionable principles. Contact Rep. Chuck McGrady to tell him to take a public stance against this bill.**

**LOCAL**

**FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT TO POST POLITICAL LAWN SIGNS ON YOUR PROPERTY**

Laurel Park Zoning Ordinance 902.4(6) restricts political lawn signs on private property in various ways. One restriction limits when people may post any signs and when they must remove them. Per the U.S. Supreme Court (*City of Ladue, et al. v. Margaret P. Gilleo*, 114 S.Ct. 2038, 1994) that provision is an unconstitutional violation of First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech. (Other provisions are also questionable on constitutional grounds.)

**If you live in a different town please check whether your town also has an ordinance about political signs on private property. Do you know whether Henderson County has such an ordinance? Let’s share reliable and current information when we obtain it. If Henderson County has such an ordinance that issue will be addressed in a future suggestion, regarding how we can work on changing unconstitutional limitations.**

**CONTACTS SUMMARY:**

1. **Send a postcard to the relevant officials and corporate CEOs at the addresses provided.**
2. **Send an email to the relevant officials on the Contact Us form on the officials’ websites.**
3. **Use the online Contact Us options for WLOS, WYFF, WSPA, WHNS, WUNF, the Hendersonville Times-News, The Lightning, The Asheville Citizen Times, & Mountain Xpress. Or send a letter (or postcard) to the physical address of the media outlet you choose to contact.**