

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN
RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF AUGUST 15, 2011 ON AUGUST
19, 2011 AT 10:45 A.M. IN THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM OF THE
CONVENTION CENTER. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO MEET
WITH NORTH CAROLINA SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, THOM TILLIS.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Steve Tyson
Commissioner Scott C. Dacey
Commissioner Thomas F. Mark
Commissioner Jefferey S. Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Vice Chairman Lee Kyle Allen
Commissioner Theron L. McCabe
Commissioner Johnnie Sampson, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT:

Harold Blizzard, County Manager
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Thom Tillis, House Speaker, North Carolina General Assembly
Norman Sanderson, Member, Craven County Legislative Delegation
Harold Blott, Economic Development Commission
Joe Thomas, Economic Development Commission
Hugh Overholt, Military Affairs Committee
Champ Mitchell, Economic Development Commission

Commissioner Dacey thanked Speaker Tillis for the General Assembly's restraint in not transferring funding burdens back to counties in the current budget cycle.

Mr. Thomas introduced Economic Development Commission (EDC) Chair, Harold Blott, who presented a White Paper on Fleet Readiness Center (FRC) East impact on the local community and region, and concerns about discussions relative to its future.

Speaker Tillis inquired what can be done to protect the operations at MCAS Cherry Point, and make North Carolina the most competitive environment for the military.

Mr. Blott stated that the F-35 B craft is the Marine Corps version of the F-35. The Navy and Air Force are trying to protect their versions and together, take over the job being done by the "B" version. That way of thinking needs to be arrested to keep the Marine TAC from shutting down.

Speaker Tillis proposed that the military sector be addressed as a business due to its economic impact on the region. He expressed a need to not only keep what we have but to grow it and get all the military entities in the state together to rally support.

Mr. Overholt suggested that North Carolina needs a cabinet level office to oversee military affairs.

Mr. Blott commented that round one has already been lost, as the Harrier is slated to go away. It should have been replaced by training squadrons, which needed outlying landing fields (OLF), and which North Carolina rejected. The squadrons were subsequently located at Beaufort, S.C.

Mr. Mitchell suggested that the Department of the Navy dislikes North Carolina because of the rejection of the OLF. South Carolina has a strong congressional delegation and good lobbyists. He recommended seeking funds to hire a good lobbyist.

Commissioner Dacey commented on the need to focus on working with the North Carolina Department of Commerce to get some funds to protect all of the bases in North

Carolina. Mr. Overholt stated that \$250,000 is needed and there is already a plan in place, if funded. A potential result of success would be a projected \$180M in tax revenue returns.

Speaker Tillis stated that he will talk with Secretary of Commerce Crisco and Senator Berger on how to help get a funding plan. The military sector could become a working group of the business caucus.

Commissioner Taylor expressed concern that there is a drawdown potential in eastern North Carolina that could hamper efforts to attract aerospace activity.

Speaker Tillis stated that he is a proponent of a constitutional amendment that would shore up North Carolina's right-to-work status.

At 11:21 a.m. Commissioner Taylor moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Dacey.

Chairman Steve Tyson
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan
Clerk to the Board