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*Chairman Appropriations; Energy & Public Utilities  
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Dear friend,

The 2017 legislative session was probably the most work in my tenure in the House, but also the most rewarding.

In my first session, as one of the chief budget writers, we passed a responsible budget. There were other key initiatives that I could take the lead in helping maneuver through the process.

We have achieved a lot of milestones and North Carolina is now considered the best state in the country for starting a business.

North Carolina's economy has expanded steadily. Its average annual growth has been 1.9 percent, and it has never been below 1.4 percent or above 2.7 percent.

The performance looks even better when we examine unemployment. When we first achieved a majority in 2011, only four states had a larger proportion of their workforce out of a job. Today we are ranked 26th. Migration into the state is also strong, demonstrating the desirability of North Carolina as a place to live.

Budgets and policies that reflect a conservative view of government has led to the reduction of taxes on all North Carolinians. In this past budget, we set aside \$263 million into a savings reserve in addition to restoring \$100 million that had gone to relief for our citizens that were affected by Hurricane Matthew.

We were able to provide teachers, on average, a 9.6 percent pay raise over two years and state employees a \$1,000 raise.

Unlike our liberal budget writers of the past, these things were achievable without reaching into your wallet for more money. Beginning in January 2019 income tax rates will drop again for corporations and individuals. The standard deduction will increase.

The franchise tax is particularly appealing because, unlike incentives that basically picks winners and losers, this will appeal to a wide range of business versus special carve outs.

One key initiative which I took a leading role was finding additional ways to protect unborn children.

Since my public service began in the House, we've been met with resistance on this issue at every turn. As legislation was passed amidst heated debate such as The N.C. Women's Right to Know Act, it was then vetoed by then Gov. Beverly Perdue, requiring a veto override by the General Assembly.

This Act merely required a seventy-two hour waiting period and the informed consent of a pregnant woman before an abortion may be performed and that ultrasound imaging and heart tone monitoring that enable the pregnant woman to view her unborn child or listen to the heartbeat of the unborn child be available to the woman. Naturally opponents ran to the courthouse. They only succeeded on the ultrasound.

In previous budget years, we've been able to allocate about \$300,000 per year to the Carolina Pregnancy Care Fellowship (CPCF). The CPCF was organized in 1987 to help women –pregnant or suspecting they are – find the help they need to make healthy, well informed choices for their future.

As part of this year's budget, we increased that amount to \$1.9 million to also help pay for equipment such as ultrasound imaging, trainings and an additional center for women who are underinsured or do not qualify for prenatal health care.

Part of the increased funding is directed to a pilot program in Raleigh operated by the Human Coalition that will assign professionals to work with pregnant women to establish a support network, financial advice and job training.

This is not a political issue for me but a moral one. The fight however is political and I am 100% committed to it as long as I serve in an elected capacity.

Adversaries will engage my campaign and try desperately to defeat me. Your financial assistance will go a long way to helping me remain on solid ground. **You can donate via credit or debit card online by clicking here** or send a check made payable to: Dean Arp for NC House, P.O. Box 1511, Monroe NC 28111-1511.

Sincerely,



## **Dean Arp**

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