

Charlotte Chamber Legislative Update by Allison Waller
June 18, 2010



This week, as the budget remains in conference committee, the Charlotte Chamber continued to advocate for the inclusion of the Mobility Fund and temporary furlough flexibility for local education authorities in the final budget proposal.

As budget conferees work to come to a compromise on the budget proposals, they're also having to deal with the fact that they may not receive some federal stimulus money that the current budget proposals rely on. Congress is continuing to debate whether or not they'll extend money for Medicaid, of which, North Carolina would receive \$500 million. Governor Perdue, while advocating on the federal level that North Carolina needs this money to help balance the state's budget, urged budget conferees to develop a contingency plan if the money does not come through. About thirty states have written their budgets with the expectation of receiving this extension money from Congress, but the situation is becoming more and more uncertain.

While the budget conferees continue their work, other pieces of legislation are moving through the General Assembly. It is expected that next week House Environment & Natural Resources Committee will take up the "Cleanfields Act of 2010" which would allow the [ReVenture Park](#) project to move forward. The Reventure Park is a massive proposal that would create the region's first Renewable Energy Eco-Industrial Park along the Catawba River in Charlotte. This innovative and ambitious project would redevelop a contaminated site into a multi-faceted renewable energy development and would become a national model for innovative redevelopment of Brownfield industrial property. This project would cement Charlotte's spot on the map as a new energy capital and is estimated to generate over \$900 million in new investment and create more than 1,000 jobs.

The “Cleanfields Act of 2010” provides an incentive for developers to select Brownfields (contaminated sites) as the location for renewable energy projects at no additional costs to NC taxpayers. In recognition of the tremendous potential to redevelop Brownfield sites with renewable energy and the barriers to achieving such growth, the Cleanfields Act establishes a triple credit multiplier for renewable energy credits for renewable energy projects on qualifying Brownfields. The Charlotte Chamber supports the passage of this legislation in order for the precedent-setting ReVenture Park and other future projects of this magnitude, to move forward and be economically viable.

The Senate approved the legislation approving the finance plan for building the UNC Charlotte football complex in a final vote Monday evening. The plan ... ([click here](#) to read complete legislative update)

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