

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – Jan 2009

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State Issues:

- **CBA State Lobby Day** - The NC General Assembly will open on January 28th for the 2009-2010 legislative session. Our State CBA Lobby Day is Wednesday, February 11, 2009. Please plan to attend if you can. The more people who lobby their state legislators, the more power bikers have in shaping the laws that affect us.

- **Eliminate vehicle safety inspections on vehicles less than three years old. Report says** - Legislative analysts say the state should eliminate the annual safety inspections North Carolina conducts on vehicles less than 35 years old. There's nothing that shows safety inspections that look at headlights, wiper blades, tires and the like prevent accidents, analysts told the committee. But the annual inspection cost motorists \$13.60 every year. In some counties, including Guilford County, cars manufactured after 1996 also have to undergo emissions inspections. Those tests cost motorists \$30 every year. Analysts recommended that cars younger than three years old be exempted from those inspections since fewer than 2 percent fail those tests. The proposals will be reviewed during the legislative session that begins in January.

- **NC motorcycle tags support Blue Ridge Parkway** A new North Carolina license tag is set to go into production for motorcycle riders who want to help the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Winston-Salem Journal reported that enthusiasts have nearly reached the required threshold of 300 bike owners committed to buying the Blue Ridge Parkway motorcycle tag. The cost is \$30 more than the regular license fee. The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation would get \$20 for its work promoting and preserving the scenic roadway. Another \$10 will go to the state's roadside wildflower program. Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation director Houck Medford said a similar tag for cars has raised about \$500,000 from the sale of more than 27,000 Blue Ridge Parkway tags.

- **Ride For Kids Events Raised A Record \$5.2 Million For Childhood Brain Tumor Research In 2008** - ASHEVILLE, N.C. The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's Ride for Kids program broke all of its previous fundraising records in 2008, bringing in more than \$5.2 million during its 25th anniversary year. This year's Ride For Kids is set for Sunday, May 3rd.

Federal Issues (Reported by the MRF www.MRF.org)

- **Obama names Ray LaHood Transportation secretary** - President-elect Barack Obama named Republican Ray LaHood to head the United States Department of Transportation. Ray LaHood, a seven term member of the United State House of Representatives from Peoria, IL has always been a strong supporter of ABATE of Illinois and has been named a MRF Champion of Motorcyclists' Rights & Safety in the past. After being elected to Congress in 1994, LaHood earned a well respected reputation for his stern style and his centrist voting record. Last summer, the veteran Congressman announced that he would not seek re-election and retire at the end of the 110th United States Congress. By appointing LaHood as Transportation Secretary, Obama will fulfill his pledge to form a bi-partisan cabinet. Precedent for naming a member of the opposite party as the Secretary of Transportation was set in 2000 when George W. Bush appointed Democrat Norm Mineta to the post.

News Items:

Canada - Motorcyclists across Canada are outraged to learn of Private Members Bill 117 that would amend the Ontario Highway Traffic Act to make it illegal for anyone to operate a motorcycle with a passenger who is under 14 years of age. The bill was introduced by Helena Jaczek, a Member of the Provincial Parliament (MPP), who feels that there is enough risk to merit such a law, but others disagree. The Canada Safety Council, a national, charitable organization that promotes safety in all areas of Canadian life, and sponsors more motorcycle rider training than any other Canadian organization, says that there is simply no information to warrant such a ban. Go to <http://www.motorcycling.ca/> for more information on this proposal.

Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively.

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