

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – May 2010

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NC State Issues:

- The NC General Assembly will reconvene on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at 12:00 noon. The State CBA annual Lobby Day will be on Wednesday, May 19, 2010. We have selected the Sheraton Raleigh Hotel to be the Host hotel for our Lobby Day activities. The Sheraton is located at 421 South Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27601. The phone number is 919-834-9900. The hotel has no parking lot. Parking is available in the Public Parking lot across the street from the hotel at \$2 per hour /maximum of \$12 per day. As of 09 March 2010, there are no restrictions related to motorcycles at this parking lot. We have contracted to use the Magnolia Room as our center of activities for Lobby Day. We will have a WI-FI internet connection to help identify your personal legislators. Informational handouts will be available. The hotel is within walking distance of the Legislative Plaza. (6 city blocks)

If you are ever discriminated against because you are a biker, please fill out the compliant form at the below URL. NCOM is gathering data. http://www.aimncom.com/ncom/ncom_complaint.htm

Speed trap directory - <http://www.speedtrap.org/> Select the state, then the city, and see a list of speed traps in your area.

International Female Ride Day in tomorrow, May 7th
National Ride to Work Day is Monday, June 21st

CBA's Legislative Agenda for the 2010-2011 legislative season:

- Increase the number of voter registrations in the motorcycling community.
- Seek support for continued funding for High School Drivers Educations Programs
- Amend the NC right-of-way statute to make the penalty more severe. (Misdemeanor death by vehicle)
- Repeal the mandatory helmet law to give NC bikers a choice like they have in SC and other states.
- Seek support for a bill which would prohibit discrimination against motorcyclists in all businesses and recreational establishments in NC.
- Enforce G.S. 20-141.5 to establish a uniform, state-wide, "motorcycle pursuit" policy for all law enforcement agencies in NC.
- Make highway barriers more motorcycle friendly.
- Prevent anti-gang legislation that targets motorcyclists.
- Prevent legislation targeting motorcycle noise emissions.
- Defend against legislation that is unfriendly to motorcycling.

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

- US House Bill 1253 – HIPAA loophole fix. – Forces insurance companies to tell you if they will not cover your medical expenses for injuries received in what they consider "dangerous" activities. (motorcycling is one of them) Latest Major Action: 4/1/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: House voted: 422-3 in favor. Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

- US House Bill HR 2057 - Right to Repair Act - a bipartisan bill called the Right to Repair Act of 2009 has been introduced in the House of Representatives that would, in fact, make it cheaper and easier for millions of consumers to have their cars and motorcycles repaired. Latest Major Action: 4/22/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Rep. David Price (Western Wake), Rep. Bob Etheridge (Chatham), and Rep. Brad Miller are already co-sponsors. We are good on this one.

Motorcycle Deaths Declined in 2009 - WASHINGTON—Deaths on motorcycles increased steadily for a decade then dropped suddenly last year, possibly because the sour economy kept some bikers off the road. The study estimates a 16% decline in U.S. motorcycle deaths through the first nine months of 2009 compared with the same period in the previous year. **It projects at least a 10% decline for the entire year, or about 530 fewer deaths.** The 5,290 motorcyclist deaths in 2008 were the most ever.

Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively.

RICHARD BURR
NORTH CAROLINA

United States Senate

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March 2, 2010

Mr. Vincent Neuman
1057 Sunset Meadows Dr
Apex, North Carolina 27523

Dear Mr. Neuman:

Thank you for contacting me about the dangers of distracted driving. I appreciate hearing your thoughts on this matter. I apologize for the delay in getting back to you.

Distracted driving has proven to be a very serious epidemic on our roads. I am concerned with the increased use of cell phones while driving that is contributing to traffic accidents, resulting in unnecessary injuries and fatalities.

I believe operating cell phones or other devices while driving is very dangerous, and drivers should not engage in this practice. As you may know, it has long been the role of state governments to regulate road safety, such as imposing bans on drinking and driving, seat belt requirements, speed limits, and other important traffic laws. North Carolina has in place a statewide ban on texting while driving, as well as a limited ban on using hand held devices while driving for bus drivers and drivers under the age of 18 years old. These bans include penalties imposed on drivers for violations.

In October 2009, the Senate Commerce Committee held a hearing in which Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Julius Genachowski and Transportation (DOT) Secretary Ray LaHood testified on the dangers that driving while operating cell phones pose for drivers. Subsequently, on January 12, Secretary LaHood announced the creation of FocusDriven, an advocacy group to raise awareness and support victims of distracted driving. To learn more about this organization and ways to prevent distracted driving, please visit www.distraction.gov.

Again, thank you for contacting me. Should you have any additional questions or comments, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,



Richard Burr
United States Senator

RB:cb