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September 27, 2021

The Honorable Roy Cooper  
North Carolina Governor  
1 E. Edenton Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601

#### **Sent via email**

[LT.McCrimmon@nc.gov](mailto:LT.McCrimmon@nc.gov)

Dear Governor Cooper,

I want to personally thank you for your recent visit to Salisbury to honor area educators and for your staff's outreach regarding recent events in our community.

As president of the N.C. League of Municipalities, and on behalf of NCLM's Board of Directors, I also wish to acknowledge and thank you for including many beneficial funding provisions for cities and towns in your budget plan, and for keeping those measures in mind as budget negotiations proceed.

Measures to support water and sewer investments, provide additional resources for law enforcement and first responder training, and enhance transportation infrastructure will help cities and their residents for generations to come.

But as you are aware, the budget bill approved by the state House of Representatives contains a range of policy provisions that have received little to no public vetting.

Cities and towns have great concerns regarding many of these non-budgetary policy provisions, which will harm the ability of local residents to make decisions through their locally-elected officials to best serve their local needs.

These provisions have the potential to lower home values for existing residents, undermine local efforts to minimize flooding, and hurt our ability to attract new residents and businesses.

We urge you to oppose these policy provisions.

Provisions that will create significant problems for municipalities and their residents include:

**BILLBOARDS:** A measure removing local authority to determine the location of relocated billboards required by new road construction. (Section 41.47, pg. 621.)

**STORMWATER:** A proposal that would eliminate local stormwater rules that prevent flooding. (Section 12.16, pg. 361.)

**SCHOOL ZONING PREEMPTION:** A proposal allowing the siting of schools in any residential or commercially zoned area of a city, without consideration of appropriateness or infrastructure. (Section 7.77, pg. 168.)

**TREES:** A measure eliminating local tree ordinances, only allowing local tree removal and protection rules by local legislative act. (Section 5.14, pg. 37.)

**SHORT-TERM RENTALS:** A proposal that could harm the ability of local governments to regulate short-term rentals like AirBnB. (Section 5.15, pg. 38)

**SMALL CELL WIRELESS:** Measures that would limit fees on the placement of small-cell wireless equipment on local taxpayer-owned poles, forcing taxpayer subsidization of telecommunications companies, and that could affect local oversight of the placement of communications-related infrastructure in local rights-of-way. (Section 38.9, pg. 532.)

If these policies were enacted into law, the effect would be to damage the very community character that makes North Carolina cities and towns attractive to residents and businesses, assuring that our economy thrives.

Please work to remove these harmful provisions from any final budget agreement.

Thank you for your work for all North Carolinians and all of North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Alexander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Alexander" clearly distinguishable.

Karen Alexander, Mayor of Salisbury  
President, N.C. League of Municipalities