



## PRESS RELEASE

### **CCNCER Set To Unveil Legislative Agenda**

**Kinston, NC** – The Chambers of Commerce of North Carolina's Eastern Region (CCNCER) is set to unveil its 2009 legislative agenda at a reception on January 26 at Lenoir Community College. The reception follows the second annual State of the Region event that will be jointly hosted by North Carolina's Eastern Region (NCER) and CCNCER.

CCNCER is a coalition of Chamber Executives and business leaders from the thirteen counties that comprise NCER. The purpose of CCNCER is to foster a spirit of regionalism, to advocate on behalf of the region's businesses, and to innovatively support and leverage business and community opportunities among the chambers in the region.

CCNCER began work, on the legislative agenda, in September of last year and met monthly to formulate the agenda. The process included bringing in experts from various fields to present information on topics identified for possible inclusion in the agenda. As a result of this process, this year's agenda will focus on exiting military, K-12 education, community colleges, and roads and highways.

The chambers that participated in formulating the 2009 legislative agenda include: Carteret County Chamber of Commerce, Greenville-Pitt Chamber of Commerce, Havelock Chamber of Commerce, Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce, Kinston-Lenoir Chamber of Commerce, New Bern Area Chamber of Commerce, Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce, Tarboro-Edgecombe Chamber of Commerce, Wayne

County Chamber of Commerce, and Wilson Chamber of Commerce. Combined, these chambers represent approximately 7,225 businesses and 172,220 employees.

Involvement in CCNCER is open to all chambers of commerce in the Eastern Region.

Bill Naumann, Chair of CCNCER and Chairman of Hatteras Collection & Hatteras Yachts explained that, “The 2009 legislative agenda is the result of a regional effort by ten participating chambers of commerce. This level of regional participation and collaboration, unique in our state, has poised CCNCER to be an effective voice for the business community in eastern North Carolina and this purpose is reflected in the agenda developed by the organization.”

In addition to developing, presenting, and lobbying on behalf of the legislative agenda, CCNCER will also track the success of those items identified in the agenda. Following the unveiling of the agenda, CCNCER members will follow-up with the elected delegation in Raleigh.

North Carolina’s Eastern Region is a thirteen-county partnership established by the General Assembly to promote economic development in Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Nash, Onslow, Pamlico, Pitt, Wayne, and Wilson Counties. The region encompasses almost 7,000 square miles and approximately one million residents.

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