CIVITAS INSTITUTE
Legislative Recap
2007 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

August 8, 2007

$205 Million Wasted by the State on Pork Barrel Projects

The Civitas Institute has identified $205.4 million in new "pork barrel" spending in the FY2007-2009 expansion budget. In addition, the budget contains $155 million in new debt authorized for pork projects.

Pork barrel spending is here defined according to the following criteria:
- Spending on projects that benefit a specific area, typically the area of the representative requesting the funding.
- Funding for items that do not fall under the proper scope of government services.
- "Slush funds" that consist of monies distributed to preferred groups to be spent at the group's discretion.
- Money forwarded to private nonprofit organizations that should be raising funds from the public, rather than receiving taxpayer subsidies. Not all money forwarded to nonprofits is identified as pork. Typically if the money is new, non-recurring spending given to a nonprofit that performs a service also performed by other nonprofits, it is labeled as pork.

In spite of Governor Mike Easley's (D) claim that this year's budget is "a sound budget that invests in our future [and] protects the public health and safety," our own analysis has found that the budget did not facilitate long-term investment for even basic needs – such as for the construction and repair of roads and schools.

Instead, the budget spent millions on unproven programs – such as More at Four, Learn & Earn, and N.C. Kids Care. The state's real priorities, in other words, are not being funded as effectively as they could. In turn, millions of taxpayer dollars are being wasted on pork barrel projects such as the following:
- A combined $25 million over the next two years for the N.C. Research Campus at Kannapolis. While this is a public-private partnership, the public share of funding has increased far beyond what was originally promised.
- $14 million for the "One North Carolina Fund." Critics call this fund Governor Easley's "walking around money," because the fund is used for special handouts to preferred corporations as part of the governor's business recruitment efforts.
- $14 million from the Highway Fund for an "economic development" fund. This basically amounts to a slush fund for the 14 members of the Board of Transportation. Each member receives $1 million to spend as they see fit.
- More than $10 million in recurring funds requested by Representative Mickey Michaux (D-Durham) for nonprofit organizations in his district. Groups receiving tax dollars include the N.C. Minority Support Center and the N.C. Community Development Initiative.
- $6.3 million for the N.C. Museum of History Chronology Exhibit Phase I.
- $5 million for a "Western Agricultural Center" arts and crafts building and livestock show arena.
- $5 million over the next two years for "operating support" for North Carolina's aquariums.
- $3.5 million for the N.C. Center for Automotive Research – for vaguely described research purposes.
- $3 million for an "Eastern Agricultural Center" horse barn.
- $3 million for "N.C. Zoo Plains Barns and Paddocks."
- $2 million to the Johnson & Wales University – a private university in Charlotte that "specializes in the culinary and hospitality industries." It's no secret this money is being allocated to fulfill a promise made by former Speaker Jim Black (D-Mecklenburg).
- $2.1 million as requested by Representative James Crawford (D-Granville) for the "Kerr-Tar Regional Economic Development Corporation," which specifically targets Crawford's district.
- $1.2 million to "provide transportation services for annual or semiannual trade shows of international significance." In other words, a chauffeur service for conventions.
- $1 million for cArtwheels, an arts program to expose public school students to professional performing arts.

• $500,000 for an "Equine Industry Study" that will "assess the numbers, composition, and value of the equine industry in North Carolina."
• $300,000 for "Shellfish Restoration Funds." Among other things, this money is to be used to "conduct a pilot project to protect oyster sanctuaries from cownose ray and skate predation."
• $250,000 for the nonprofit Jewish Heritage Foundation to produce a documentary on Jewish life in North Carolina.
• $200,000 for the "North Carolina in the World Project." This program focuses on the vague goal of "improving students' knowledge and skills about the world."

$155 million in new debt not subject to voter approval:
• $120 million of certificates of participation debt authorized for the "Land for Tomorrow and Waterfront Access" program. This money will be used to preserve land for open space use – a function that should be performed by the private sector. An unintended consequence of this project is that it will drive up the price of private property.
• Another $35 million of certificates of participation debt authorized for an "education and visitors center" at Tryon Palace.

North Carolina's elected officials continue to display a clear lack of fiscal discipline. Taxpayers should be aware of how their money is being spent, and decide if they approve of our lawmakers' decisions. Once citizens become more informed about some of the lesser-known budget expenditures, they will be in a better position to hold state legislators accountable.

Pork Report FY 2007-2009

Agency	Item	FY2007-08	FY2008-09
Natural and Economic Resources			
Marketing	Marketing Funds	$250,000 NR	
Reserves and Transfers	Agricultural Development Farmland Preservation (NC ADFP) Trust Fund	$8,000,000 NR	
Reserves and Transfers	Implement North Carolina's Strategic Plan for Biofuels Leadership	$5,000,000 NR	
Office of Conservations & Community Affairs	River Herring Research	$100,000 NR	
Pollution Prevention & Environmental Assistance	Continuation Review of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative	$276,624 NR	
Water Quality	Water Quality Monitoring on Ferry Vessels	$300,000 NR	
Aquariums	Increased Operating Support	$2,500,000 R	$2,500,000 R
Marine Fisheries	Stock Assesment & River Herring Management Program	$148,521 R $103,679 NR	$148,521 R
Soil & Water Conservation	Poultry Waste Management	$250,000 NR	
Soil & Water Conservation	Swine Waste Technology Initiatives Legislation	$2,000,000 NR	
Reserves and Transfers	Grassroots Science Program Funding	$283,577 R $425,000 NR	$283,577 R
Reserves and Transfers	Land for Tomorrow and Waterfront Access $120 million in certificates of participation		
Tourism, Film, and Sports Development	Travel & Tourism Funds	$750,000 NR	
Tourism, Film, and Sports Development	Blue Ridge National Heritage Funds	$450,000 NR	
Tourism, Film, and Sports Development	Film Commission Funds	$300,000 NR	
Tourism, Film, and Sports Development	Viticulture Promotion	$500,000 NR	
Tourism, Film, and Sports Development	Motorsports Funds	$100,000 NR	
Marketing	Furniture Market Funds	$1,000,000 NR	
Commerce Finance	NC Green Business Fund	$1,000,000 NR	
Commerce Finance	One North Carolina Fund	$14,000,000 NR	
Commerce Finance	One North Carolina Small Business Fund	$4,830,000 NR	
Commerce - State Aid	Regional Economic Development Commissions		$6,436,250 NR
Commerce - State Aid	NC Center for Automotive Research	$3,500,000 NR	
Commerce - State Aid	Johnson & Wales University	$2,000,000 NR	
Commerce - State Aid	Defense and Security Technology Accelerator	$1,500,000 NR	
Commerce - State Aid	Kerr-Tar Regional Economic Development Corporation Funds	$2,175,000 NR	

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Pork Report FY 2007-2009

Agency	Item	FY2007-08	FY2008-09
Commerce - State Aid	Coalition of Farm & Rural Families	$300,000 NR	
Commerce - State Aid	Land Loss Prevention	$350,000 R	$350,000 R
Commerce - State Aid	NC Community Development Initiative	$3,000,000 R	$3,000,000 R
Commerce - State Aid	NC Association of Community Development Corporations (NCACDC)	$750,000 R	$750,000 R
Commerce - State Aid	NC Institute of Minority Economic Development (NCIMED)	$1,500,000 R	$1,500,000 R
Commerce - State Aid	NC Minority Support Center (NCMSC)	$3,000,000 R	$3,000,000 R
Commerce - State Aid	e-NC Authority	$4,000,000 NR	
N.C. Biotechnology Center	Regional Centers of Innovation	$3,000,000 R	$3,000,000 R
Rural Economic Develoment Center	Equine Industry Study	$500,000 NR	
Natural and Economic Resources Total		**$68,142,401**	**$20,968,348**
Justice & Public Safety			
Sentencing Services	Grants to Sentencing Services Nonprofits	$200,000 NR	
SBI	Piedmont Triad Regional Crime Laboratory	$431,837 R $156,074 NR	$1,168,623 R
Special Initiatives	Macon County Multipurpose Group Home	$300,000 NR	
Justice & Public Safety Total		**$1,087,911**	**$1,168,623**
General Government			
Commission on Indian Affairs	NC Indian Economic Development Initiative, Inc.	$150,000 NR	
Archives and History	Enhanced History Education	$100,000 R	$100,000 R
Archives and History	Abandoned Cemetery Preservation	$119,741 R $13,600 NR	$119,741 R
Archives and History	CSS Neuse Funds	$500,000 NR	
Archives and History	Charlotte Hawkings Brown Historic Site	$50,000 NR	
Archives and History	African-American Monument Project (private nonprofit)	$100,000 NR	
Archives and History	International Civil Rights Museum (private nonprofit)	$500,000 NR	
Archives and History	Horn in the West Operational Support	$25,000 NR	
Archives and History	Expand Arts Council Basic Grants	$1,000,000 R	$1,000,000 R
Archives and History	cArtwheels Funding	$1,000,000 NR	
Archives and History	Expand Grassroots Arts Program	$1,000,000 R	$1,000,000 R

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Pork Report FY 2007-2009

Agency	Item	FY2007-08	FY2008-09
Archives and History	Opera Company of North Carolina	$25,000 NR	
Archives and History	Graveyard of the Atlantic	$300,000 R	$300,000 R
Archives and History	Symphony Operating Funds	$540,000 NR	
Archives and History	Queen Anne's Revenge Archaeology Project	$150,000 NR	
General Government Total		**$5,573,341**	**$2,519,741**
Health and Human Services			
Division of Public Health	Health Disparitites Initiative	$500,000 NR	
Division of Public Health	Healthy Carolinians	$1,000,000 NR	
Division of Public Health	Women's Health Services	$200,000 R	$200,000 R
Division of Public Health	Recruitment of Minorities into Pharmacy Schools	$275,000 NR	
Division of Public Health	Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (private nonprofit)	$100,000 R $75,000 NR	$100,000 R
Division of Public Health	Funds for Healthy Start Foundation	$150,000 R	$150,000 R
Health and Human Services Total		**$2,300,000**	**$450,000**
Education			
Public Education	DPI Positive Behavior Support Coordinator	$90,000 R	$90,000 R
Public Education	Centalization of Professional Development	$550,000 R	$550,000 R
Public Education	Communities in School (private nonprofit)	$500,000 R $550,000 NR	$500,000 R
Public Education	Teacher Academy (private nonprofit)	$2,000,000 R	$2,000,000 R
Public Education	Teach for America (private nonprofit)	$200,000 NR	
Public Education	Science Competitions	$200,000 R	$200,000 R
Public Education	Kids Voting	$250,000 NR	
Public Education	Ag in the Classroom	$50,000 NR	
Public Education	Schools Attuned (private nonprofit)	$300,000 R	$300,000 R
Public Education	Teacher Cadet (private nonprofit)	$278,500 NR	
Public Education	Project Enlightenment (private nonprofit)	$200,000 NR	
Public Education	NC Humanitities Council Teacher Institute Program (private nonprofit)	$100,000 NR	
Public Education	PTA Parental Involvement Initiative	$262,500 NR	
UNC System	ExplorNet	$125,000 NR	
UNC System	NC School of Science and Math Tuition Grant	$449,905 R	$834,099 R

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Pork Report FY 2007-2009

Agency	Item	FY2007-08	FY2008-09
UNC System	NC Research Campus at Kannapolis	$8,500,000 R $8,000,000 NR	$8,500,000 R
UNC System	NC LIVE for Private Colleges	$90,000 NR	
UNC System	Hunt Institute (private nonprofit)	$500,000 R	$500,000 R
UNC System	UNC-TV Statewide Programs	$289,952 R	$289,952 R
UNC System	North Carolina in the World Project	$200,000 NR	
UNC System	UNC System Lateral Entry Programs (slush fund)	$750,000 NR	
UNC System	NCSU Center for Universal Design	$300,000 NR	
UNC System	Joint Program in Nanotechnology	$1,400,000 R	$1,400,000 R
UNC System	Special Focus Institutions	$1,100,000 NR	
UNC System	Fire Protection for UNC-Pembroke	$750,000 NR	
UNC System	North Carolina Specialty Crops Program	$300,000 NR	
UNC System	Shellfish Restoration Funds	$300,000 NR	
UNC System	Statewide Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology	$150,000 NR	
UNC System	NCSU Entrepreneurship & Regional Cluster-Based Economic Development Funds	$500,000 NR	
UNC System	UNC/NCCCS 2+2 Joint E-Learning Initiative	$1,000,000 R	$1,000,000 R
UNC System	Academic Summer Bridge and Retention Pilot Programs	$1,193,000 R	$1,193,000 R
UNC System	Competitiveness Fund	$3,000,000 NR	
UNC System	Center for Design Innovation	$500,000 R	$500,000 R
UNC System	Inland Port Study	$100,000 NR	
UNC System	Center for Bioenergy Technologies	$1,500,000 NR	
UNC System	John B. McLEndon Leadership Awards	$500,000 NR	
Community Colleges	Hugh Morton Collection	$150,000 NR	
Community Colleges	Motorsports Consortium Funds	$500,000 NR	
Community Colleges	Hosiery Technology Center	$100,000 NR	
Community Colleges	Male Minority Mentoring	$475,000 NR	
Community Colleges	NC Center for Viticulture and Enology	$500,000 NR	
Community Colleges	NC Research Campus (slush fund)	$100,000 R $1,300,000 NR	$100,000 R
Education Total		**$40,153,857**	**$17,957,051**
OPERATING BUDGET SUBTOTAL		**$117,257,510**	**$43,063,763**
Transportation			

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Pork Report FY 2007-2009

Agency	Item	FY2007-08	FY2008-09
Highway Fund	Rural Airport Development	$2,000,000 R	$1,677,782 R
Highway Fund	Regional Bicycle Planning	$500,000 R	$500,000 R
Highway Fund	Transportation Services for Trade Shows	$1,200,000 R	$1,200,000 R
Highway Fund	Grants to Short-Line Railroads	$1,000,000 NR	
Highway Fund	Economic Development (slush fund for Board of Transportation heads)	$14,000,000 NR	
Transportation Total		**$18,700,000**	**$3,377,782**
Capital			
Department of Cultural Resources	Deerfield Cottage Renovation - home for women prisoners with children	$3,556,000 NR	
Department of Cultural Resources	NC Museum of History Chronology Exhibit Phase I	$6,322,900 NR	
Department of Cultural Resources	Money to nonprofit for documentary on Jewish life in N.C.	$250,000 NR	
Department of Cultural Resources	Horne Creek Farm Visitor's Center	$442,100 NR	
Dep't of Agricultrure and Consumer Services	Western Agricultural Center arts/crafts building and livestock show arena	$5,000,000 NR	
Dep't of Agricultrure and Consumer Services	Eastern Agricultural Center horse barn	$3,000,000 NR	
Dep't of Natural and Environmental Resources	NC Zoo Horticulture Storage Facility	$450,000 NR	
Dep't of Natural and Environmental Resources	NC Zoo Plains Barns Paddocks	$3,006,000 NR	
Dep't of Natural and Environmental Resources	Division of Forest Resources Ashe County Headquarters	$708,000 NR	
Dep't of Natural and Environmental Resources	Division of Forest Resources Buncombe County Headquarters	$292,000 NR	
	Department of Cultural Resources Tryon Palace Education and Visitors Center Total Debt authorized is $35,000,000		
Capital Total		**$23,027,000**	**0**
GRAND TOTAL		**$158,984,510**	**$46,441,545**