Hurricane Matthew:

As state leaders continue to monitor the increasingly dire situation in eastern North Carolina following Hurricane Matthew, we also look to the state’s role in providing disaster relief in both the short-term and the long-term.

Currently the state has $12 million in its disaster relief fund, according to legislative fiscal research staff. Governor McCrory has said that is sufficient funding to respond to the financial needs in the months to follow.

Looking to similar recovery efforts that North Carolina undertook with Hurricane Floyd in 1999, the state appropriated $836 million to the Hurricane Floyd recovery effort.

While our emergency response teams and local officials are working tirelessly hour to hour, day to day, to ensure that the people of eastern North Carolina are safe, as state leaders we also need to act to ensure that every possible avenue is available to the Governor to provide support in the flood response and recovery process.

In 1999, the legislature created a comprehensive system of emergency response through the Hurricane Floyd Recovery Act (HB 2), offering us the framework needed to respond quickly in crisis today. We can and should do everything possible to empower the Governor to provide every resource needed by returning to Raleigh for a special session to appropriate funds from the state’s $1.6 billion rainy day fund to aid the families directly impacted by this storm.

While Senator Berger and Representative Moore have said it would be imprudent to call a special session in response to this disaster, we feel that this is an appropriate, proactive measure. Republican leadership has called special sessions on short notice in recent months in order to write discrimination into state law under the premise of protecting women and children. We have an opportunity and a responsibility to act in time of crisis to truly protect women, children and all people of North Carolina following this storm.

Continued on page 2...

Response to the attack on the Orange County GOP Headquarters:
I was shocked and appalled by the act of violence that was carried out on the Orange County GOP Headquarters early Sunday morning. Hopefully, those responsible will be brought to justice quickly. This is not what democracy looks like. We are better than this.
**STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources
- Appropriations: Base Budget
- Appropriations: Justice & Public Safety
- Commerce
- Education/Higher Education
- Government
- Joint Oversight Committee on Program and Evaluation
- Joint Oversight Committee on Health & Human Services
- Judiciary I
- State & Local Government

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**Hurricane Matthew, Continued:**

On Wednesday, the state Board of Elections announced it would not revise voter registration and early voting schedules to accommodate those affected by Hurricane Matthew. State leaders should be acting in every way possible to mitigate the impact this storm has on North Carolinians and we cannot condone anything less than full support and protection of voters’ rights and access to the polls.

However, on Friday afternoon, Wake County Superior Court Judge Don Stephens ordered the state voter registration deadline extended in 36 counties. These counties were the hardest hit by Hurricane Matthew. Judge Stephens’ order was the result of a lawsuit filed by the state Democratic Party against the state Board of Elections Executive Director Kim Strach to get the deadline extended.

The counties include Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, Nash, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Pitt, Robeson, Sampson, Tyrrell, Washington, Wayne and Wilson.

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**Photo of the Week**

**Senator Foushee with Rep. Price, Rev. Nixon, and members of St. Paul AME Church at their 152nd Anniversary Celebration**

*Please continue to contact my office to share your concerns on issues or if my office can be of any assistance to you. Thank you for allowing me to represent you in Raleigh.*

*Sincerely,*

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