On Saturday, April 27, I appeared as a featured speaker of We the People. For some time prior to this event, I had been receiving questions as to why I was not doing what I was sent to Raleigh to do, mainly concerning gun rights legislation. A question was also put forward at this event concerning the progress of my bill calling for a study of Common Core.

It was my intention to let the folks know that it is not that I have not tried to move the gun rights legislation they were expecting from me, but that the bills were not being given a hearing. When they wanted an explanation of why, I told them what I thought about it.

I also talked about Rep. Carl Ford being pressured not to pursue certain legislation if he wanted any other bills to be heard. This was based on statements Rep. Ford had made to me. However, when he told me about this, he did not say that the pressure actually came from the Speaker of the House. That was an assumption of mine, based on the context.

In discussing the Common Core legislation, I probably gave them a little more information than was necessary about the process, and speculated about other people's motives more than was appropriate, as I was having second thoughts about the process myself. Thinking out loud in such a setting is not the best thing to do, it seems. At the time, I did not consider that my comments would be given the widespread exposure that did occur.

Unfortunately, some of my well-meaning supporters put a video of my comments out over the Internet, which I would rather they had not done. As a result, my presentation has put the Speaker of the House, Rep. Thom Tillis, in a bad light, in a manner that was not fair to him in retrospect. I do wish to apologize to him for that. While we do still have some disagreements about process, I have done damage to his reputation in a manner which I did not consider at the time. I regret that this has damaged our friendship, and I ask for his forgiveness, not for the disagreement, but for the manner in which I handled it.

Rep. Larry G. Pittman