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Dear Representative,

The Metropolitan Mayors Coalition remains opposed to the local sales tax changes contained in H1224 and asks that you vote against the bill. We believe any changes to local sales tax authority should be a part of the larger conversation on tax reform and economic development that will be held leading up to and in the 2015 long session.

As our state legislature contemplates how to continue our State's economic recovery and particularly how to encourage the growth of our rural economies we must consider the pillars of economic success and where the responsibility for funding those pillars best resides. A strong education system and a well trained workforce are two of our most important assets when trying to grow our economy.

It is our hope that in 2015 our State will have an important conversation about what the needs of our urban and rural economies are and recognize that the answers are likely different. The conversation must include a dialogue on how best to fund those needs and which level of government should bear the responsibility.

Our State has a long history of funding our education system at the State level and in doing so has recognized that we all benefit from a well trained workforce in all parts of our State. Before we take further steps away from that tradition we should consider the consequences for those parts of our State that do not have the tax base or voter willingness to support such an important economic development tool.

As Mayors of our State's urban economies we know that our State's urban success is tied to the success of our entire multi county regions. Our urban regions are able to attract high quality jobs because we have a strong workforce throughout the region. All North Carolina counties must have strong education systems for all our regional economies to succeed. We are all in this together.

As such, we ask that you pause and wait until the 2015 session before making any changes to local sales tax authority. Let's work together to see all parts of our State flourish economically. It is only when we work together across all levels of government that North Carolina will regain its position as a leader nationally in the economic recovery.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our State,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy McFarlane".

Raleigh Mayor Nancy McFarlane  
Chair, N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Swain".

Huntersville Mayor Jill Swain  
Vice-Chair, N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition