



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 18, 2017**

**Contact: Sara Mogilski, (919) 715-1044**  
**sara.mogilski@ncacc.org**

## **RUTHERFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ATTEND LEGISLATIVE GOALS CONFERENCE**

RALEIGH – *Rutherford County* Commissioners Alan Toney and Michael Benfield attended the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners’ 2017 Legislative Goals Conference, which was held at the Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley January 12-13.

The Legislative Goals Conference represents the culmination of a thorough, deliberate and inclusive process to set the Association’s legislative agenda for the 2017-18 Legislative Biennium. The complete set of Association legislative goals is available at <http://www.ncacc.org/620/2017-18-Legislative-Goals>. All counties have the opportunity to send a voting delegate, and many others attend this important event for the Association. More than 200 county officials from across North Carolina attended the event.

Commissioner Michael Benfield stated, *“It was a great opportunity to network with other Commissioners across the state, meet with other County Managers, and be included in discussions with individuals from other areas of the state that are having similar problems. I was also able to attend the Budgeting for County Officials course which included an accounting and budgeting class that will further my education and increase the knowledge needed as I carry out my duties as a Rutherford County Commissioner.”*

Commissioner Vice Chairman Alan Toney participated in the process by serving as the voting delegate representing Rutherford County. He commented, *“I was thankful to be able to represent Rutherford County’s interest as representative from North Carolina counties discussed and approved goals for our Association of County Commissioners who will promote these goals with our legislators.”*

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper addressed commissioners during lunch on the opening day of the conference. “It’s great to be in a room full of public servants...people who deal with constituents about real-life things every day affecting their lives.” Governor Cooper spoke with the group about his commitment to finding ways to help with issues important to counties including school construction, internet access and economic development. He commented that he considers counties to be “an integral partner” and that he will listen to county officials about what is important at the local level.

Conference attendees also heard from North Carolina Free Enterprise Foundation Executive Director, Joe Stewart, on the 2016 elections and voting trends across the state, and NCACC Research Director, Linda Millsaps, on an economic outlook for North Carolina.

For information on the NCACC legislative goals process, go to [www.ncacc.org/legislativegoals](http://www.ncacc.org/legislativegoals).

**Editors:** Print quality photos may be downloaded from <https://ncacc.smugmug.com/2017-Legislative-Goals/>. Photo should be credited as follows: Photo courtesy Chris Baucom/NCACC. Governor Cooper's luncheon address may be downloaded from <https://youtu.be/GhDvSTAi2U8>.

###

*The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) is the official voice of all 100 counties on issues being considered by the General Assembly, Congress and federal and state agencies. The Association provides expertise to counties in the areas of lobbying, fiscal and legal research, communications, intergovernmental relations, information technology, field visits and risk management services.*