

# John M. Belk

February 1, 2005

Dear Business Leader:

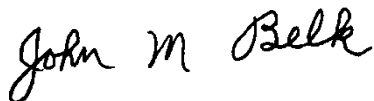
As a business man and having been very active in civic affairs in North Carolina for the past sixty years, fifty of those years as CEO of Belk, I am greatly concerned for the economic vitality of our State.

Over the last decade our tax rates have increased dramatically. In fact, we are one of two states (New Jersey) in the nation to have raised taxes in each of the last three years, and now we have among the highest corporate and individual tax rates in the country. As a result, many companies are relocating to other southeastern states. In the last year or so we lost to South Carolina, Tennessee and Florida hundreds of companies including Louisiana Pacific, Asurian, Asset Acceptance, Verizon, Depository Trust Corporation, Quanta Computers, Household Beneficial, Cinram, Grid South, Prairie Plastics, Wells Fargo, Lear Corporation, Dei-Tec, Pella Corp., UPS, Plastic Pac and Employee Benefit Services, just to name a few.

North Carolina needs to become competitive again like we were in the early 1990's to offset the loss of jobs we have suffered in manufacturing and textiles.

Will you join me in writing Governor Mike Easley, President Pro-Tem of the Senate Marc Basnight and Speaker of the House Jim Black to encourage them to control spending with greater fiscal accountability, and reduce our corporate and individual tax rates in this session of the legislature? Our top priority should be to help build our economy and provide an attractive climate for business expansion and development.

Sincerely,



John M. Belk

P.S. For information regarding opportunities for cost savings in Government, please review the following website: [www.NCFuture.org](http://www.NCFuture.org)

The Honorable Michael F. Easley  
Office of the Governor  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301  
[Governors.office@ncmail.net](mailto:Governors.office@ncmail.net)

The Honorable Marc Basnight  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
Legislative Bldg. - Room 2007  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2808  
[marcb@ncleg.net](mailto:marcb@ncleg.net)

The Honorable James B. Black  
Speaker of the House  
State Legislative Building  
16 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-1096  
[jimb@ncleg.net](mailto:jimb@ncleg.net)