



President Trump's Jobs Plan for North Carolina: All Job Creation is Local



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Introduction

The Obama-Biden administration raised taxes, increased regulations, suppressed development of America's natural resources, slashed the defense budget, and failed to crack down on unfair trade practices by countries like the Communist China. The Trump-Pence administration has pursued just the opposite policies while following an "all job creation is local" strategy to stimulate economic growth. Let's see how this strategy is working for the people of the Tar Heel State.

Trump Tax Cuts and Opportunity Zones Boost Income

Critics of President Trump's historic Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 have tried to fool the American people into thinking these were tax cuts for the rich. But nothing could be further from the truth.

Consider that real median household income in North Carolina increased by over \$9,400 or 18.4 percent in just two years following the passage of the Trump tax cuts. At \$61,159, North Carolinians are now enjoying the highest real median household income level since 1984.¹

Note, too, that the Trump tax cuts are family friendly. More than 704,000 North Carolinian households have benefitted from the doubling of the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per child. Also, 3.2 million North Carolinian households are benefitting from doubling the standard tax deduction.²

The tax cuts are not only family friendly, but business friendly as well. Take Benchmark Auto Sales in Asheville, which is now able to provide 100 percent of their staff with employer-provided health insurance.³ Or, take Aquesta Financial Holdings in Cornelius, which has increased all of their employees' base wage to \$15 an hour and gave \$1,000 bonuses to nearly 100 employees.⁴ Old Dominion Freight Line Inc., based out of Thomasville, gave \$500 bonuses to all 22,000 employees of their staff.⁵

North Carolina is also home to 252 opportunity zones. 241 of these zones are in low-income communities, and roughly two-thirds are heavily concentrated in inner-city and urban communities, such as Charlotte, Greensboro, and Raleigh.⁶ The remaining third of the opportunity zones are in rural communities, scattered across the state from Rocky Mount to Asheboro, to the ridgeline of the Great Smokey Mountains and the greater Appalachian Valley.⁷

President Trump Makes Remarks at an Opportunity Now Conference in N.C.



These zones are also ethnically diverse. Nearly 40% of the population is African American, and residents living in these opportunity zones are burdened with an average poverty rate of 29.3 percent, a 13 percent unemployment rate, and a near 25 percent severe rent burden average.⁸

Because of the Trump tax plan, we have already seen more than \$7.7 billion invested in North Carolina's opportunity zones,⁹ starting nearly 40 projects that include affordable housing, mixed use commercial space, innovative energy projects, and a healthcare research park.¹⁰ Investments in these Trump opportunity zones are creating good, high-paying jobs to North Carolinian communities in need.

For example, TradeMark Properties is building a 20,000-seat soccer stadium in a downtown Raleigh opportunity zone.¹¹ This project is expected to spur additional investments into hotels, restaurants, and residential living spaces within the area. In Charlotte, Holliday Fenoglio Fowler has invested \$22.6 million to build a 124,000 sq. ft. office building and brewery space; Stratifyd, a data analytics company, has invested \$3.25 million to relocate its headquarters to the Queen City, adding 200 jobs.¹²

USMCA Protects Industry, Jobs, and Creates Wealth

In 2009, the Obama Administration broke a promise to the American people when it announced that it would not seek to renegotiate NAFTA, one of the worst trade deals in American history.¹³ From 1994 to the start of 2018, North Carolina lost over 328,000 manufacturing jobs, dropping from nearly a third of the state's employment to only 13 percent.¹⁴ Textile and furniture factories shuttered across the central and western parts of the state in small communities like Murphy, which lost 380 textile jobs.¹⁵

President Trump kept his promise to renegotiate NAFTA, resulting in the new United States–Mexico–Canada agreement – the USMCA. This deal only serves to increase trade with Mexico and Canada, which already supports 400,000 North Carolina jobs and \$12 billion in revenue.¹⁶ The USMCA is great news for North Carolina's farmers, manufacturers, and innovators.

President Trump Celebrates USMCA with Industry Leaders



On the manufacturing front, the North Carolina auto parts sector is made up of 230 automotive companies and 290 automotive manufacturing plants from Raleigh and Charlottesville to Greensboro and Charlotte, home of NASCAR's famed Motor Speedway. USMCA raised the domestic content requirements for automobiles from 62.5 percent to 75 percent,¹⁷ and much of this production will be Made in North Carolina because tough labor and environmental provisions help level the playing field between the U.S. and Mexico.

North Carolina's once thriving textile and furniture industries, decimated by NAFTA and China's accession into the World Trade Organization, also have reason to celebrate. Revised rules for sourcing threads and coat fabrics from North America will expand markets for North Carolinian producers of these materials. As an additional measure to benefit North Carolinian textile producers, all TSA uniforms must now be made in the U.S., in compliance with the Kissell Amendment.¹⁸

To protect the 9,000 manufacturing jobs that make up North Carolina's public health industrial base, USMCA's increased intellectual property protections provides the medical device manufacturing industry safeguards for over 1,200 medical device patents held state-wide.¹⁹

Fair Trade is Great News for North Carolina Farmers

On the farming front, North Carolina is a national leader in tobacco, pork, and turkey production. Agriculture is North Carolina's number one industry, generating nearly \$92 billion in revenue annually.²⁰ China, Mexico, and Canada are the Tar Heel state's three biggest export partners.²¹

President Trump Applauds North Carolinian Farmers



Increased access to the poultry and egg markets in Canada will benefit North Carolina's \$37 billion poultry industry²² made up of 150,000 workers,²³ and the state's \$10.6 billion dairy industry made up of over 500 dairy farmers in towns like Waynesville, Hillsborough, and Statesville.²⁴

And let's not forget about hog farmers and pork producers. The U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement, signed in October of 2019 is a huge victory for the industry.²⁵ Japan is the United States' greatest importer of pork products based on volume.²⁶ The Japan deal lowered the tariffs on U.S. pork products, eventually phasing down to a zero percent rate, giving additional market access to North Carolinian producers in communities like Smithfield, Elizabethtown, and Goldsboro.²⁷

President Trump and Prime Minister Abe Signing the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement



Trump Deregulation

North Carolina's 485,000 farmers²⁸ have also been helped by critical Trump deregulation efforts.

In October of 2019, the Trump Administration finalized a rule that repealed the disastrous Obama-Biden 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule that overregulated North Carolina's ditches, potholes, and farm ponds. President Trump concluded the process of replacing the 2015 WOTUS rule with the much more workable Navigable Waters Protection rule in June of 2020, ending years of unnecessary federal meddling in state regulations. This action granted farmers from Wilmington, Jacksonville, and Greenville, to Raleigh, Charlotte, and Asheville, additional access to their waters.

The Trump Administration also finalized a Federal rule that exempted North Carolina's critical pork, poultry and beef industries from having to report routine animal waste emissions to the National Emergency Response Center.²⁹ Not only was this action supported by North Carolina producers, it was applauded by our nation's first responders as well.

President Trump's signing of the 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized and improved upon the various United States' Department of Agriculture farm programs routinely relied upon by North Carolina farmers, such as farm safety net and marketing programs.³⁰

President Trump's deregulation efforts have also helped bolster broadband internet infrastructure for North Carolina's rural communities. While 95 percent of all households across the state have access to broadband infrastructure,³¹ nearly half of rural North Carolinians do not subscribe to broadband services³² due to high prices.

To attract more competition and make broadband more affordable, the Trump Administration has invested more than \$57.8 million has been invested in rural broadband expansion programs³³ for the Tar Heel State, improving service for over 57,000 North Carolinians in Pender,³⁴ Columbus,³⁵ Moore,³⁶ and Madison counties.³⁷

President Trump Strengthens Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

North Carolina is the nation's leader in bio and pharma manufacturing with over 61,000 employees³⁸ and more than 600 companies,³⁹ and leading research institutions such as The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, N.C. State, and Duke University.

The state is also home to the Research Triangle Park,⁴⁰ a corridor of higher education and medical innovation spanning from Raleigh to Chapel Hill. Over 50,000 workers are employed at the park, making it the largest research center in the country.⁴¹ These workers spend their days producing research in the fields of life sciences and agricultural technology to advanced manufacturing and renewable energy.⁴²

The China Virus pandemic made the case for President Trump's "Buy American, Hire American" vision, and why having domestic supply chains for life-saving pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and medical equipment—all things that make up the U.S. public health industrial base—are critical for keeping America safe.

In January, Eli Lilly and Company announced that it would build a new \$474 million facility in Durham County to manufacture American-made drugs to treat Diabetes and will create more than 460 good-paying manufacturing jobs in the coming years.⁴³ Beam Therapeutics, a budding gene and cell therapy company, recently announced their plans to construct an \$83 million bio manufacturing facility in Durham,⁴⁴ which will create over 200 jobs with an average annual salary of \$102,654.⁴⁴

Trump's Operation Warp Speed⁴⁵ awarded Novavax \$1.6 billion to develop a vaccine, tens of millions of which will be manufactured by Fujifilm Diosynth in Morrisville – more jobs headed to North Carolina.⁴⁶

President Trump's signing of the Essential Medicines Executive Order this past August will also spur additional investments in domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing in North Carolina.⁴⁷ The order directs federal agencies to procure USA-Made essential medicines, critical inputs, and medical countermeasures,⁴⁸ whose supply chains had been exposed to foreign predation for decades.⁴⁹

President Trump Signs the America First Healthcare Plan in N.C.



Defense Spending and Foreign Military Sales

President Trump's dramatic increase in defense spending has been a boon to North Carolina. Under the Trump-Pence Administration, \$89 million in federal contracts have been awarded to North Carolina based aerospace companies, a 61.8% increase from the second term of the Obama-Biden Administration.⁵⁰

And this is all to the good because North Carolina is one of the most important states in America's defense industrial base.

North Carolina has the fourth largest military footprint in the country, with more than 143,000 personnel across the state – nearly one-tenth of North Carolina employment – and nearly \$7 billion in payroll.⁵¹ To see how the Trump defense budget increases are helping to create jobs at the local level in North Carolina.

Consider the case of a truly iconic North Carolina company, Honeywell International, which relocated its headquarters to Charlotte in 2018, and currently has operations in Cherry Point, Raleigh and Rocky Mount, to name a few. This past March, Honeywell was awarded a \$72 million contract to upgrade auxiliary power units used on combat jets, maritime surveillance, and cargo aircraft models.⁵² This award will help sustain 750 jobs statewide.⁵³

This past September, U.S. Special Operations Command awarded over \$950 million in contracts for Special Operations Forces Core Support services such as training, engineering, and program management.⁵⁴ Two defense contractors located in Cumberland County were integral to this mission: Strategic Solutions Unlimited Inc., and Walshingham Group Inc.,⁵⁵ These two awards will help sustain over 140 jobs.⁵⁶

First Lady Melania Trump Visits Troops at Fort Bragg, N.C.



This past March, CACI Inc. of Fayetteville was awarded a \$180 million contract to provide special operations communications systems, satellite communications, and network support services for the U.S. Navy.⁵⁷ This award will sustain 50 jobs.⁵⁸

The Defense Production Act and the China Virus Response

Answering the President's call to action during the China Virus pandemic, global leaders in North Carolina's textile industry like Hanes in Winston-Salem and Parkdale Mills in Gastonia received contracts under the CARES Act to manufacture millions of USA-made surgical masks and gowns.⁵⁹

Local family-owned and operated businesses like Fairfield Chair in Lenoir switched its production lines from furniture to PPE to equip nurses and doctors in their frontline battle against the China Plague,⁶⁰ sustaining 450 jobs.⁶¹

Medical supply manufacturers like Owens & Minor Halyard in Lexington was awarded a \$29 million contract to rapidly expand their production capacity to produce millions of N95 respirators and melt blown material for the newly revamped Strategic National Stockpile.⁶² This award sustained approximately 500 jobs.⁶³

President Trump helped provide over \$2 trillion⁶⁴ in relief for American workers and families throughout the pandemic, saving over 50 million jobs⁶⁵ nationwide. In North Carolina, \$8 billion of this historic relief package supported 5 million families.⁶⁶ Farmers and ranchers received \$380 million⁶⁷ in direct aid payments. Over 129,000 in loans totaling nearly \$12.3 billion were approved for small businesses.⁶⁸ Not to mention, 65 manufacturers statewide received at least \$1 million in loans.⁶⁹

Conclusion

You can see, then, from this tour of the North Carolina economy just how productive President Trump's "all job creation is local" strategy has been. While the deadly virus from Communist China has hit America and the American economy hard, the Trump economic team, led by the greatest jobs president and trade negotiator in history, is bringing prosperity back to the Great State of North Carolina and to the American people.

So as we fight this Communist China Virus together, please always remember this: By January of 2020 – before the plague from Communist China attacked our shores – the success of President Trump's worker-focused strategy was undeniable. We had strong economic growth, historically low unemployment, and rising wages, particularly for Blue Collar America and our Black and Brown Communities. Together, we WILL get back to that pinnacle of Trump success as we pursue the twin missions of building a strong economy and defeating the deadly Chinese Communist Party virus.

President Trump Helps in Hurricane Florence Recovery



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