Dear PENC Members:

We hope you are enjoying our newsletter and legislative update! Hopefully this weekly email provides you with information you need from PENC. We’d love to hear your feedback on the content and format. Please send your comments to me at shwoolard@charlottenc.gov. Thanks!

- **Summer Conference!**
  - The full agenda is published on our website at [www.penc.org](http://www.penc.org). Please register by June 10th, but the earlier the better to help our conference team get accurate numbers to the hotel for meals and meeting rooms.
  - **If you missed the reduced hotel rates, we have a limited number still available through PENC.** Email me at shwoolard@charlottenc.gov to inquire on availability.

- **Volunteer opportunities!**
  - Help shape the future of PENC. Join the Transition Team embarking on a four-week strategic planning session, now through June 12th. Email shwoolard@charlottenc.gov to get started.
  - Newly-formed Conference Committee - email Tom Bach at bacht@concordnc.gov.
  - Sedimentation Control Commission - email Neil Deans at neil.deans@kimley-horn.com.
  - NSPE PAC – email Neil Deans at neil.deans@kimley-horn.com.

Susan Habina Woolard, PE  
2014-2015 PENC President-Elect

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**PENC Legislative Update**

Last week members of the House and Senate Appropriations committees continued vigorous work on their respective spending plans for the budget. The House and Senate
alternate years for which chamber originates the budget and this year was assigned to the House.

House members and staff worked late into the night Wednesday to have their proposals ready for 8:30am subcommittee meetings Thursday. House appropriations subcommittee members debated their sections of the spending plan for hours on Thursday and more lengthy sessions are expected this week. Members outlined their differences in spending goals from the Governor’s proposed plan while also promoting their own policy and budgetary proposals. Many differences are the result of the state's $400 million surplus for the current budget year, while the Governor’s budget, which was released March 5, was working under the assumption the state could see a deficit of as much as $271 million. Some differences served to highlight policy disagreements between House Republicans and Governor McCrory.

House members expect to pass their budget this week and send it to the Senate for consideration where a similar process will take place over the following few weeks. Senator Phil Berger has already outlined some budget priorities for the Senate, which includes ending the annual highway fund transfer to the general fund.

**This week**
On Tuesday we expect HB760, Regulatory Reform Act, to be heard in the Senate Commerce Committee. This controversial regulatory reform bill includes a Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (REPS) freeze and other rollbacks on REPS policy. The bill also includes, among other things, prohibitions for occupational licensees to serve as investigators, amendments to isolated wetlands law, development agreements, amendments to the animal waste management system, and riparian buffer reform. [Here is a link to HB760 Regulatory Reform Act](#)

**In Case You Missed It...**

*The huge cost of letting NC buildings go unrepaired*
*News & Observer | May 13, 2015*
PENC member Bill Smith and Carolinas AGC Government Affairs Director Betsy Baily's joint opinion editorial

*Tillis bill would designate an interstate from Raleigh to the coast*
*Under the Dome, News & Observer | May 14, 2015*

**Budget Documents**
Here are a few links below for those interested in taking a look at the spending plans:

*Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources*
*House NER Money Report*
*House NER Special Provisions*

**Capital**
General Government
House Subcommittee on General Government Money Report
House Subcommittee on General Government Special Provisions

Transportation
House Subcommittee on Transportation Money Report and Special Provisions

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