



February 6, 2017

North Carolina General Assembly

Dear Senator/Representative,

On behalf of the North Carolina Sports Association, which represents 27 counties across the state, I'd like to share with you the following information:

North Carolina is on the brink of losing all NCAA Championship events for six consecutive years, through the spring of 2022. This includes the NCAA Basketball Tournament ("March Madness") in cities like Greensboro, Raleigh and Charlotte.

North Carolina cities, colleges and universities and their host partners have submitted a total of 133 bids (spanning a wide range of sports) for NCAA championship events that will be staged from academic year 2018-19 through academic year 2021-22. The 133 bids represent more than \$250 million in potential economic impact for the state. (This is a conservative figure that some sports officials believe to be much greater.)

The NCAA's bid review and evaluation process began in January. Our contacts at the NCAA tell us that, due to their stance on HB2, **all North Carolina bids will be pulled from the review process and removed from consideration**. That process will begin in the various sports committees starting in 7-10 days and continuing through February. At that point, we will be faced with a six-year drought of NCAA championships in North Carolina. (At about the same time, the NCAA is expected to pull all events currently scheduled for next year, 2017-18, including NCAA Basketball in Charlotte. And, of course, all events for the current academic year have already been relocated.)

What's more, in terms of youth and amateur sports in the United States, the NCAA exerts tremendous influence. When the NCAA decides it will no longer conduct events in North Carolina, the Atlantic Coast Conference and many other sports organizations will surely follow. When compounding the effect of losing these additional sporting events, including hundreds of youth and amateur events, plus the NBA All-Star Game, we believe North Carolina could lose upwards of a half-billion dollars in economic impact.

This letter is not intended to be political in any way, but rather objective and fact-based, so that all interested parties will have a clear understanding of what's at stake and the urgent nature of these potential losses. In a matter of days, our state's sports tourism industry will suffer crushing, long-term losses and will essentially close its doors to NCAA business. Our window to act is closing rapidly.

No state loves its college sports more than North Carolina. It's part of our culture, our fabric and our history. But sadly, at this moment, the NCAA championships that our citizens love so much are in jeopardy, on the brink of being lost for the long-term. Once they go away, there is no guarantee when, or if, they will return.

Our last chance to save these events is now. It will be a shame if HB2 is resolved one day too late.

Thank you for your time. I can be reached at 919-645-2657 or sdupree@raleighsports.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Dupree'.

Scott Dupree
Executive Director, Greater Raleigh Sports Alliance
Member, North Carolina Sports Association