

August 15, 2025

N.C. State Representative Shelly Willingham
916 Hill Street
Rocky Mount, NC 27801

Re: Veto Overrides

Dear Representative Willingham:

As members of the Edgecombe County Democratic Party, we are writing to express our combined concern in reference to how you voted during the most recent legislative session. There were eight opportunities for you to uphold and support the interests of the people by sustaining Governor Stein's vetoes. Instead, you voted to override six of those vetoes: HB 193, HB 402, HB 549, SB 266, SB 416, SB 254. Two of those overrides have been called very harmful by the North Carolina Association of Educators: SB 254 that weakens oversight of charter schools by shifting power away from the State Board of Education; and HB 549 that expands the powers of the state auditor, currently Republican Dave Boliek, who already has been given more powers taken away from the governor. You were the only Democrat to vote to override this veto.

We worked hard in the 2024 election to break the Republican supermajority in the NC House and elect Josh Stein as governor. The only power Democrats have now to stop the MAGA Republicans in North Carolina is to sustain the governor's vetoes. In not doing so, you failed your constituents and fellow Democratic and Legislative Black Caucus members. What you did by not standing up with and for us, we find appalling and self-serving, and in no way can we continue rewarding you with our support. The choices made that day will not only affect our livelihoods today, but for generations to come. Most importantly our children, whose futures are in all our hands, deserve an elected official who truly represents them.

Prior to the vote on July 29, 2025, people of Edgecombe County sent letters, emails, texts and made phone calls asking you to stand with us. The actions you took during that vote spoke volumes. You stood with the Republican party and did not stand with your voters in our push to defend our rights under this General Assembly. Going forward, let this be a reminder to you, as Edgecombe County Democrats **WE WILL CONTINUE TO STAND AND WATCH YOUR PERFORMANCE**. We will continue to stand for: fairness, freedom, transparency and collaboration across the aisle, when it does not compromise the ideals, values, and policies of the Democratic Party and Edgecombe County citizens. We will earnestly be watching those who were elected to represent us. We appreciate the work of North Carolina State Representatives. It is a job not to be envied, or taken lightly. Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,
Concerned Members of the Edgecombe County Democratic Party