

[Insert Date]

[Insert Contact Name]

[Insert Organization]

[Insert Address Line 1]

[Insert Address Line 2]

Dear [Insert Title & Name],

On behalf of more than 300,000 military, federal, state and local government retirees from across North Carolina, we are writing to respectfully request that you join The 4<sup>th</sup> Branch “Keep the Promise Campaign.” The goal of this campaign is to influence the State of North Carolina to meet its responsibility to *all* government retirees by eliminating the state income tax on their pensions, which it promised would be tax-free when they began their careers of public service. Furthermore, it represents a significant economic development and job creation opportunity for the state, which we believe deserves attention and action from state leaders. To that end, The 4<sup>th</sup> Branch requests that your organization agree to have its name included as a signatory on the enclosed letter to show broad support and unity around this policy goal. To confirm your support and agreement to be listed on the enclosed letter to state leaders, please contact me at [mleonard@seanc.org](mailto:mleonard@seanc.org).

Additionally, as a participant in The 4<sup>th</sup> Branch “Keep the Promise Campaign,” we ask that you engage with us in various campaign activities throughout the 2015-16 session of the N.C. General Assembly, including the following:

- ✓ Contact state legislators via phone calls, emails and letters to indicate your support of this policy goal.
- ✓ When requested by The 4<sup>th</sup> Branch, share email “Action Alerts” with your colleagues and members, asking them to contact their state legislators to support this policy goal or particular bills to advance this goal.
- ✓ Promote the “Keep the Promise Campaign,” including a forthcoming campaign website at [www.4thbranchnc.org](http://www.4thbranchnc.org), to your colleagues and members.

*Background – A court settlement in North Carolina known as the “Bailey Settlement” exempts certain military and other public-service retirees from paying state income taxes on their retirement benefits. The Bailey Settlement is the result of North Carolina breaking its promise in the past to not tax the pensions of these retirees; yet, the settlement only restores the state’s promise to some of them (who had five or more years of service on Aug. 12, 1989). The 4<sup>th</sup> Branch believes that this is an unfair tax policy that creates two classes of government retirees. It is also an unwise tax policy that denies the state significant economic benefits, including thousands of jobs and increases in consumer spending, GDP, local capital, new home construction and sales and property tax revenues.*

We look forward to your participation in The 4<sup>th</sup> Branch “Keep the Promise Campaign.” Please take the first step by lending your organization’s name to the enclosed letter. The 4<sup>th</sup> Branch is a coalition of groups representing military, federal, state and local public-service retirees. For more information, please give me a call at (919) 417-4068 or send me an email to [mleonard@seanc.org](mailto:mleonard@seanc.org). Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Mitch Leonard, State Chairman

Enclosure