



September 29, 2015

Dear Members of the Mecklenburg County Legislature Delegation:

I am writing to ask that you as members of the Mecklenburg House and Senate delegations push for the withdrawal of the conference report for SB 279 and then for the removal from the conference report of those provisions that prevent local governments from enacting or enforcing ordinances addressing discrimination in public accommodations and ordinances that establish minimum standards for habitable housing. These provisions were inserted in the conference report with no prior public notice. They did not appear in any prior version of the bill as it was debated in committee or on the floor of either chamber. One of the unconsidered consequences of these provisions would be to invalidate Charlotte's existing ordinance, dating back to 1968, that prohibits discrimination in public accommodations on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Additionally, it appears that these provisions would prevent the City from enforcing its housing code that establishes minimum standards for safe and habitable housing. These provisions set our community back nearly half a century and will have a lasting negative impact on everyone.

Thank you for your service and for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Daniel G. Clodfelter  
Mayor