



July 19, 2012

The City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have a rich history of responsible, innovative, and professional governance. This tradition, which includes a successful record of functional consolidation, has transformed our community into a premier destination for citizens, visitors, and commerce. Indeed, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, Charlotte-Mecklenburg is the fifth fastest growing urban area in the country. Moreover, our growing reputation and attractive business climate provide tremendous prospects for smart growth and economic development.

In order to maximize that potential, however, it is imperative that we continue working to make our government more efficient and effective. To this end, we write to ask for your support for creating a Study Commission in Charlotte-Mecklenburg to assess the benefits, consequences, and political feasibility of City-County consolidation.

In this era of incredible growth, Charlotte-Mecklenburg must respond to the increased demand for local government services. Therefore, it is essential that we explore ways to create a more navigable, comprehensive, and accountable local government. The current climate of volatility at the state and federal levels makes it more critical than ever for us to be as coordinated and cohesive as possible with our resources. By creating a commission to *study* consolidation, our elected officials can demonstrate their commitment to exploring all options that may improve government accountability and effectiveness for Charlotte-Mecklenburg's citizens.

The Charlotte City Council has already demonstrated its commitment by adopting the attached joint resolution. We have identified you as one of twenty-five community leaders with a reputation of being thoughtful and willing to work across partisan lines for the good of our community. Would you add your name to a petition encouraging the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners to adopt the attached joint resolution creating a Study Commission in January 2013?

We hope you will thoughtfully consider this request over the next few days and look forward to your response. If you support creating a Study Commission, please email mayor@charlottenc.gov, or call the Mayor's Office at (704) 336-2064, to let us know. Otherwise, someone from the Mayor's Office will follow up with you in the next few days. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anthony R. Foxx

Richard Vinroot