



NORTH CAROLINA RETAIL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION

Mailing Address: PO Box 176001

Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

June 28, 2011

Mr. George Dennis, III
Managing Partner
Teague Campbell Dennis & Gorham, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 19207
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619-9207

Dear Mr. Dennis:

With Governor Perdue's signing of House Bill 709 – "Protect and Put NC Back to Work" – on Friday, June 24, 2011, North Carolina's business community reached what many believed to be a remarkable milestone – true workers' compensation reform that will hopefully last decades.

During the 2011 Long Session, Mike Carpenter, John McAlister and I worked closely with Representative Dale Folwell on this piece of legislation. During this process, the four of us had the unique opportunity to spend an extended period of time with Bruce Hamilton of Teague Campbell Dennis & Gorham, L.L.P. Bruce provided the steady hand during our lengthy negotiation process with the also ably-represented plaintiffs' bar. The respect Bruce commanded from the plaintiff's bar was often a key part of this process. There were many occasions where Bruce injected himself into the heated discussions and the plaintiffs' bar recognized that they were overstepping their boundaries and needed to rethink their positions. The ability to do this came from years of experience and a keen antenna to what was fair and what was politically doable.

Whether it was the landmark thirteen hour negotiation in Representative Folwell's conference room or the final negotiation session that ran well past midnight one Friday evening when we had Bruce on speaker phone, Bruce was a dedicated and worthy advocate for our side in this legislative battle. I can honestly say that without the efforts of Bruce Hamilton, the plaintiffs' bar would have easily gotten the best of the business community on House Bill 709.

On behalf of all of us that were fortunate enough to work with Bruce through the years and this session on workers' compensation issues, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to Teague Campbell Dennis & Gorham, L.L.P. for allowing Bruce to work on this very important and time-consuming project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy", written in a cursive style.

Andy Ellen
General Counsel

cc: Representative Dale Folwell, Speaker Pro Tempore, North Carolina House of Representatives

Mike Carpenter, North Carolina Homebuilders Association

Lew Ebert, North Carolina Chamber

John McAlister, Bank of America (formerly North Carolina Chamber)