

11/21/2021

The Honorable Thom Tillis

United States Senate

185 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Thom Tillis,

As your constituent, I urge you to develop legislation that will support more robust penalties or fees that would reduce littering. I am writing this letter on behalf of myself, a young and concerned citizen of North Carolina. I am respectfully requesting that you strengthen laws penalizing individual littering as well as commercial and industrial waste.

Fortunately, I've had the privilege of growing up in North Carolina, and have enjoyed long drives to both the mountains and the beach. However, over the years I have noticed a significant amount of trash on our roadways. This is extremely important because the trash ends up in our waterways and is dangerous to wildlife, and ultimately humans. We know the population in North Carolina is continuing to grow because more people are moving here from up north and the west coast. Diverse Americans are migrating here and choosing to raise their families here. We have a beautiful state, and our cities are becoming more crowded. Therefore, the problem is only going to get worse.

Although littering is already discouraged by the state, I am still witnessing an immense volume of trash on public highways. In fact, the (NCDOT) North Carolina Department of Transportation spent over \$15 million to remove roughly 7.5 million pounds of roadside litter in 2015. And as you know, the 2021 NC Highway Cleanup Act (NC H100) bill has been introduced and is still in review by committee. It aims to increase the fine for numerous offenses related to littering. I am asking to implement legislation that will have greater fees associated with littering and illegal dumping. I also expect you to drive efforts on timely road cleanup procedures and managing waste practices. It is my desire that you fulfill my request because without it, we threaten the ecological balance of critical ecosystems.

Littering not only creates visual pollution which reduces tourism but it's also detrimental to the environment. Action is needed now. Thank you for prioritizing your citizen's safety. I greatly appreciate all that you do for North Carolina, and I hope to see positive changes moving forward.

Sincerely,

Hailey Hawkins