

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina values the dedication and entrepreneurial spirit of North Carolina's small business owners, whose firms form the backbone of the state and national economies; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to more than 843,000 small businesses, and those with employees account for about 98 percent of all employers in the state; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina small businesses employ 1.6 million, or about half, of the state's private workforce; and

WHEREAS, small businesses created over 24,500 of the net new jobs in the state in 2013; and

WHEREAS, approximately 9,544 small firms exported goods from the state, accounting for 87 percent of the firms which exported from North Carolina in 2014; and

WHEREAS, it is the collaborative mission of certain North Carolina public agencies, educational institutions, and private sector organizations to help the state's small businesses grow and create new jobs by providing exemplary workforce training, business call centers, financial assistance programs, research, and technical assistance; and


WHEREAS, North Carolina provides a wide array of services to small businesses: community college small business centers, the Small Business and Technology Development Center, SCORE, SBA Women's Business Centers, and Veteran's Business Outreach Center; access to resources and assistance with business licenses through Business Link North Carolina hosted by the Economic Development Partnership; matching funds for federal technical assistance grants; and assistance to rural entrepreneurs through the Rural Center; and

WHEREAS, small businesses throughout North Carolina also receive assistance through the United States Small Business Administration (SBA), created through the ratification of the Small Business Act in 1953 with the mission to maintain and strengthen the nation's economy by providing access to capital, counseling, training, and contracting to entrepreneurs and small businesses, and by assisting families and businesses to recover from natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, during the week of April 30 – May 6, 2017, the SBA is celebrating National Small Business Week during which the SBA highlights the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs, small business owners, and others from all 50 states and United States territories, which impact the growth of small businesses, the creation of 21st century jobs, innovation, and the enhancement of America's global competitiveness;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 30 – May 6, 2017, as "SMALL BUSINESS WEEK" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twentieth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.