

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

2020

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina values the dedication and entrepreneurial spirit of small businesses, which are an important pillar of our state's economy and communities; and

WHEREAS, this year, small businesses are navigating the unprecedented challenges of a global pandemic even as they continue to support their employees and meet the needs of their local communities; and

WHEREAS, there were more than 934,000 small businesses in North Carolina in 2017, according to the latest figures from the United States Small Business Administration, accounting for more than 99 percent of the state's businesses; and

WHEREAS, these small businesses employed 1.7 million people, which is more than 45 percent of the state's private-sector workforce; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's small businesses accounted for more than 62,600 of the net new jobs in North Carolina in 2019, illustrating the critical role they play in the state's economic prosperity and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, small businesses contribute significantly to North Carolina's export activity and global reputation in manufacturing, with more than 9,600 small firms exporting goods from the state in 2018 and generating 22.5 percent of the state's \$29.2 billion in merchandise exports; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina public agencies, educational institutions, and private-sector organizations collaborate to help small businesses grow and create new jobs by providing workforce training, business mentoring, financial assistance, research, technical assistance, export support services, and more; and

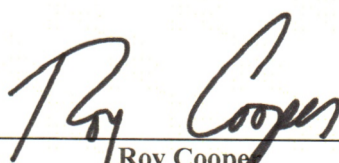
WHEREAS, North Carolina provides many services to small businesses through community college small business centers; the Small Business and Technology Development Center; SCORE; SBA Women's Business Centers; the Veterans Business Outreach Center; Business Link North Carolina, hosted by the Economic Development Partnership; and the Rural Center; and

WHEREAS, during National Small Business Week, the United States Small Business Administration highlights the impact of small business owners and entrepreneurs on our nation's economy and global competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, when we support North Carolina small businesses, jobs are created, local communities thrive, and our economy grows;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 22 – 24, 2020, 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 sixteenth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.