



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY & STATE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Kristi Jones
Chief of Staff
Office of Governor Roy Cooper
Raleigh, NC

Dear Ms. Jones,

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Information Technology, I would like to share several concerns my leadership team and I have regarding the budget approved earlier this week by the North Carolina General Assembly.

The budget has three main policy failings related to the work of my Department:

- 1) The budget fails to invest in the much-needed expansion of broadband services to rural North Carolina, exacerbating the digital divide that is already leaving many small communities at a definitive disadvantage. The budget proposed by Governor Cooper would have invested \$20 million in this initiative.
- 2) Statewide cybersecurity efforts continue to lag those of other governments. The State Chief Risk Officer requested \$12.3 million (\$11.8 million recurring, \$500,000 nonrecurring) this year to fund a plan that would strengthen our defenses against cyberattacks and establish a strong baseline system for the future. The legislature appropriated \$2 million – 16 percent of our request, all nonrecurring – to pay for work that will cost three times that amount. Meanwhile, the State's systems and North Carolinians' data remain vulnerable.
- 3) The plan to transfer approximately 2,000 information technology professionals in state agencies to the Department of Information Technology within the next year has missing financial support. The budget does not offer funding to complete this transition, such as additional money for human resources, training and other administrative functions that need to expand as the Department grows from 600 employees to more than 2,500.

Thank you for taking the time to review these concerns. I look forward to working with you and Governor Cooper to address these challenges. Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Eric Boyette". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

J. Eric Boyette
Secretary and State Chief Information Officer
North Carolina Department of Information Technology