



## Burley Stabilization Corporation

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May 16, 2008

Commissioner Steve Troxler  
N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
1001 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1001

Dear Commissioner Troxler:

Burley Stabilization Corporation (BSC) is a cooperative marketing association formed in 1953 and has represented the burley tobacco farmers in western North Carolina since 1958. At that time, as is today, our board of directors set a priority to establish generous research grants to support our farmers. North Carolina's agricultural research programs are unique and the shared arrangement between NCDA&CS and the State's Land Grant Universities have propelled North Carolina to be a national leader in agricultural research to the benefit of farmers and consumers of their production. NCDA&CS's role is unique because of the department's ability to reach both consumers and farmers. The tax dollars spent on NC's research programs have been returned three fold with the sale of quality agricultural products in the national and global markets.

As US consumers are being faced with a flood of agricultural products from unregulated foreign markets, our farm economy is facing tremendous challenges to remain economically viable. These challenges can only be met by continuing research to provide our farmers with production efficiencies, improved varieties and higher yields.

North Carolina has a proven system in place to remain a national leader and protect the future farm economy. Our board continues to strongly support the current agricultural research arrangement with NCDA &CS and the Land Grant Universities and their mission to provide assistance and programs for North Carolina farmers to remain economically viable and insure NC remains a leading supplier of quality products in the national and global arena. The Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina is not the forum to manage agricultural research.

Best regards,

Charlie C. Finch  
Managing Director