

CORNERSTONE  
INVESTORS.[Home](#) [Take Action](#) [News](#) [State Issues](#) [Federal Issues](#) [Voter Resources](#)[Print This Page](#)

## Perdue aims incentives at small business

Jan 14, 2010  
*Winston-Salem Journal*

Richard Craver

Jan. 14, 2010 (McClatchy-Tribune Regional News delivered by Newstex) -- Small businesses, often neglected in the debate over economic incentives, were put in the bull's eye yesterday as part of a 2010 economic agenda presented by Gov. Bev Perdue.

Perdue said she will propose tax incentives for small businesses "that are born in North Carolina, create jobs in North Carolina and stay in North Carolina."

She also announced the launch of a statewide initiative called "Biz Boost" that will help small businesses "apply for credit, work on staffing, manage cash and reduce costs." Federal money will be used to pay for the program.

Chrissy Pearson, a spokeswoman for Perdue, said that there are few current details on the governor's tax-incentive proposal for small businesses, which prompted some legislators to adopt a "wait-and-see" approach to the plans.

Perdue says that keeping and adding jobs in North Carolina is her top priority.

"I've long said that we give a lot of help and a lot of emphasis to incentives in big business, and we need to do the same kind for our small business," Perdue said.

Analysts said that Perdue's proposal is likely partly in reaction to the closing of the Dell Inc. desktop-assembly plant in Winston-Salem. The plant, which was eligible for up to \$305 million in local and state incentives, became the local and statewide poster child for over-the-top incentives hype, with unfulfilled job pledges and the eventual loss of 905 jobs by late April.

Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson, said that Perdue's plan could be a good match for the Triad's life-sciences cluster, which is constantly scrapping to attract capital and investors.

Bingham said that while he is leery of incentives, he would be in favor of tax credits that would help "100 companies create 10 jobs rather than on larger projects for companies whose main goal is seeing how much they can get out of North Carolina rather than establishing roots here."

Sen. David Hoyle, D-Gaston, said he was glad that Perdue is listening to the voices of small-business owners.

"Most large businesses were small businesses at some point," Hoyle said. "By nurturing them at the early stage, there's a better chance of establishing good will with them that, along with all the advantages of doing business in North Carolina, could lead them to grow here and add jobs here.

"If we don't help out, South Carolina and other states are there to eat our lunch."

John H. Boyd, the president of The Boyd Co. Inc., a site-selection company in Princeton, N.J., said that Perdue's proposal "appears to be a thoughtful recalibration of the state's approach toward incentives."

"The language about companies that keep jobs in North Carolina clearly reflects the need for accountability

and new scrutiny that incentives are now under," Boyd said.

Perdue said that the N.C. Commerce Department and N.C. Small Business and Technology Development Center will be in charge of its statewide expansion of Biz Boost.

Perdue is also pushing an education initiative that she says has a simple, yet hard to accomplish goal. "All of our kids must graduate high school with what it really takes to go into a career, college or technical training," she said.

About seven in 10 ninth-graders get a diploma within four years of their first day of high school, Perdue said. Too many recent high school graduates -- up to 60 percent in the state community college system -- must take remedial classes before starting their college course of study.

"These numbers offend me," Perdue said.

Perdue is putting her education initiative, called "Career-College, Ready, Set, Go," on the fast track by requesting proposals from education leaders throughout the state by March.

rcraver@wsjournal.com 727-7376 The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Newstex ID: KRTB-0222-41213341

[Back to Top](#)

© Copyright 2007. North Carolina Chamber of Commerce. All Rights Reserved.