



February 5, 2009

Tommy Griffin
Employee Forum
CB#3488

Dear Tommy:

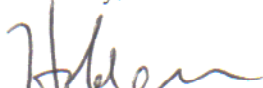
Thank you for your note requesting funds for the publication of inTouch. As you know, we are in the midst of a budget crisis that is unlike anything we have seen in a very long time. Nevertheless, I hope I'm proposing here a solution to the problem that you have brought to my attention. My reasoning is based on the following points:

- (1) Given the current budget crisis, I realize that it's more important than ever that the Forum be able to communicate effectively with its members;
- (2) I support the Forum's publishing InTouch in print;
- (3) I understand that the Forum has a balance of \$70,000+ in its staff development fund, after this year's commitments are taken into account;
- (4) Under the fund authority, those dollars can be spent only with my approval; and
- (5) I think communication is a key component of staff development.

Thus, while I'm not in a position to provide new dollars to the Forum, I'm willing to authorize the Forum to spend \$2500 this year and \$5000 in each of the two following years from the Forum's staff development fund to support hard-copy publication of InTouch. I cannot make a commitment longer than FY '10-11, given the financial uncertainties that lie ahead.

I hope you agree that this is a satisfactory resolution of your request. We appreciate so much your leadership on the Forum and all that our employees do for Carolina.

Sincerely,



H. Holden Thorp

HHT:bl