

INTRODUCED BY: Lori A. Brill, County Manager DATE: 04/02/07 ITEM NO. 13

Resolution Formally Stating That This Pender County Board of Commissioners Shall NOT Seek Legislative Action to Redistrict Commissioner Voting Districts Until After the 2010 US Census Data Is Available

SUBJECT AREA: Administrative

ACTION REQUESTED:

This Board of Commissioners wishes to formally state its intention NOT to seek further Legislative Action to redistrict Commissioner voting districts until after the 2010 US Census date is available.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND:

On January 16, 2007, by a vote of 3 to 2, the Pender County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution "Requesting Redistricting of Pender County Commissioner Districts." This resolution referenced a map including seven (7) voting districts and requested that each Commissioner be elected solely by the voters of the respective districts.

On February 5, 2007, by a vote of 4 to 1, the Board of Commissioners voted to ask Rep. Wright to rescind House Bill 41 and the Board voted to schedule two public forums for residents to voice their opinions with respect to this issue. A meeting was held at Topsail Middle School on Thursday, March 8, 2007. A total of 17 speakers came to the podium; 16 of whom spoke decidedly against the redistricting plan, and 1 of whom spoke in favor of the plan. A second meeting was held on Thursday, March 15, 2007 at the Frances D. Basden Judicial Annex in Burgaw. A total of 12 speakers came to the podium, 6 of whom were opposed to the redistricting plan (2 of the opposed were from Columbus County), and 6 of whom were in favor of the plan.

EVALUATION:

The only reliable data upon which informed redistricting decisions can be made comes from the US Census. With a history of rapid growth in Pender County it is believed that the 2000 census data, now 7 years old, does not accurately reflect the County's population. Since the event of these two meetings, there has been great public outcry for this Board to formally state a position on this issue. In an effort to resolve this matter for the tenure of this Board, it is recommended that a resolution be adopted stating they shall not seek legislative action on redistricting until the results of the 2010 US Census data are made available.

