



**AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY®**
NORTH CAROLINA

February 21, 2018

VIA U.S. MAIL

Anthony M. Copeland, Secretary of Commerce
North Carolina Department of Commerce
4301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699- 4301

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Secretary Copeland:

I write on behalf of the North Carolina chapter of Americans for Prosperity (“AFP North Carolina”), a group of over 221,000 citizen leaders working to keep taxes low and increase opportunity for everyone.¹ In carrying out its mission, AFP North Carolina demands transparency from the governor and state agencies on what exactly the administration is offering to Amazon to set up their second headquarters in North Carolina. Governor Cooper has not been shy about giving away tax payer dollars to well-connected businesses that don’t need it. In January of this year, the Toyota-Mazda manufacturing plant chose Alabama over North Carolina despite Governor Cooper’s administration offering nearly 4 times the incentive package. The Governor and his administration have been using taxpayer dollars like a credit card with an unlimited balance leaving the taxpayers of North Carolina to foot the bill. North Carolinians have the right to know the extent to which their hard-earned paychecks are being offered to lure this multi-billion-dollar company to our state.

Pursuant to North Carolina Public Records Law, chapter 132 of the North Carolina Statutes, AFP North Carolina hereby requests access to the following records²:

1. Any and all public records that pertain to incentive offerings made to Amazon (or Project Golden) in relation to building its new headquarters in Raleigh, Wake County, or Research Triangle Park, North Carolina; and
2. Any and all public records that reflect the competitive standing of our state with regards to low corporate and personal income tax rates and the economic impact of state tax reforms.

¹ See AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY, *About*, <https://americansforprosperity.org/about/>.

² For the purposes of this request, the term “record” is used broadly to include “all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, photographs, films, sound recordings, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data-processing records, artifacts, or other documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance in connection with the transaction of public business by any agency of North Carolina government or its subdivisions”. See N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1(a).

Because the solicitation and submission of these plans has been made publicly by Amazon, the state and local leaders, it is our position that the release of these requested records would not “frustrate the purpose for which such public records were created” and are thus public.³

Please furnish the requested records in an electronic format, if feasible. If applicable, please provide these records as they are processed.

The law requires that you respond to and fulfill this request “as promptly as possible.” If you expect a significant delay in responding to and fulfilling this request, please contact AFP North Carolina with information about when we might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

Should you deny AFP North Carolina’s request, or any part of the request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (704) 589-7191 or by e-mail at agravely@afphq.org. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

Anna Beavon Gravely, Interim State Director
Americans for Prosperity – North Carolina

³ See N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-6(d)(1).