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Contact: Bob Hall, 919-489-1931

Top Political Donors Dominate List of Easley's Board of Transportation Appointees

An analysis of contributions to Gov. Mike Easley's campaign from his first 19 appointees to the Board of Transportation and his new department secretary shows:

- ◆ All 14 appointees to Division positions contributed to Easley's campaign. These are the appointees who must be consulted on every project in their territory. The average contribution from the division appointee and his/her family was \$12,200. This virtually matches the \$12,000 that the average 1997 appointee and his/her family gave to Gov. Jim Hunt's 1996 campaign.
 - In 4 of the 14 Divisions, the biggest donor got the appointment (Divisions 1, 6, 8 and 12.) In other words, the person whose family gave the most money to the Easley campaign from within a Division's territory was the person appointed to oversee that Division on the Board of Transportation.
 - In a 5th case, the appointee works for the donor whose family gave the most money in that Division (Division 7).
 - In a 6th case, the appointee's family was the second largest donor in the territory (Division 14).
 - In 3 more cases, the appointee and his family ranked among his county's top three donors to the Easley campaign (Division 2, 3 and 4).
- ◆ In addition, 2 (Cameron McRae and Louis Sewell) of the 5 appointees to seats designated for specific expertise in transportation-related areas made donations to Easley's campaign; 3 gave nothing. Donations to Easley from McRae and Sewell and their families total \$29,000 or \$14,500 each.
 - Each of these two donors occupying seats designated for specific expertise was the second largest donor in his respective county to the Easley campaign.
- ◆ Finally, the new Secretary of Transportation, Lyndo Tippet and his family gave \$15,377. Mr. Tippet is the former Treasurer of the N.C. Democratic Party. His disclosure report indicates his intimate role in fundraising for the Easley campaign, although the actual amounts raised are omitted.

Here's a list of the total given by the appointees and their families to Easley, according to Easley's campaign finance reports. (Collice Moore's disclosure report says his son gave \$100, but Easley's campaign report shows him giving \$250. Mac Campbell's report omits a \$500 donation from son Wesley and \$300 from son Brian. Conrad Burrell's report says he personally gave \$700, \$200 more than listed in Easley's.)

Amount	Appointee	City	Amount	Appointee	City
\$ 8,500.00	BURRELL, CONRAD	SYLVA	12,000.00	MCRAE, CAMERON	KINSTON
27,400.00	CAMPBELL, MAC	ELIZABETHTOWN	16,250.00	MOORE, COLLICE	GREENVILLE
2,150.00	COX, TYRONE Y	DURHAM	17,000.00	SEWELL, LOUIS	JACKSONVILLE
2,000.00	DOLBY, EDWARD C	CHARLOTTE	2,200.00	THORNBURG, ALAN	ASHEVILLE
5,000.00	DUNN, NANCY W	WINSTON-SALEM	15,377.00	TIPPETT, LYNDY	FAYETTEVILLE
1,865.00	ERBY, SAM JR	GRANITE FALLS	18,000.00	WAFF, PAUL	EDENTON
19,000.00	GALYON, J DOUG	GREENSBORO	20,500.00	WILSON, LANNY	WILMINGTON
8,000.00	JENKINS, S CLARK	TARBORO	\$215,242.00	TOTAL	
24,000.00	JOHNSON, FRANK	STATESVILLE			
\$ 16,000.00	KINDLEY, G R	ROCKINGHAM			