



State of North Carolina
Department of Labor

LUKE FARLEY
COMMISSIONER

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October 28, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer,

I write as the elected Commissioner of Labor for the State of North Carolina. It is my duty to protect the health, safety, and well-being of over five million working men and women in the Tar Heel State. Senate Democrats have made that job harder by shutting down the federal government and refusing to pass a clean continuing resolution.

North Carolina operates under a U.S. Department of Labor-approved State Plan, meaning workplace safety laws are enforced by the North Carolina Department of Labor, not federal OSHA. However, half of the funding for our State OSHA program comes from federal grants. Our last grant disbursement was on September 30, and since then, we have been using our limited reserve of state funds to cover the federal share of safety inspector salaries. If the shutdown continues, we will soon exhaust those resources and be forced to furlough safety inspectors. With fewer inspectors in the field, North Carolina's workers — especially those in high-risk industries such as construction and manufacturing — will face greater danger on the job.

Senate Democrats once claimed to stand with working people. Today, they are playing political games at the expense of hardworking North Carolinians. Every day this shutdown continues, the risk to our workers increases. It's time to end the federal shutdown and put American workers first again.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Luke Farley
Commissioner of Labor

CC: President Donald J. Trump
Vice President JD Vance
Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer