

Tuesday, July 10, 2007, at the North Carolina General Assembly

The Associated Press

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AROUND THE STATEHOUSE:

A coalition of local government and business groups held a news conference outside the Legislative Building urging lawmakers to consider the long-term needs of North Carolina communities when deciding whether to support new revenue sources for local governments. The Partnership For North Carolina's Future wants the General Assembly to approve \$5 billion in bonds for school construction, land and water conservation and road projects. It also wants lawmakers to eliminate the counties' share of Medicaid and give local governments alternatives to generate new taxes and revenues. The partnership put out a report estimating that North Carolina's population has grown by 75,000 people and 50,000 acres of farms and natural areas have been lost to development since the General Assembly convened in January.