

December 17, 2015

Holiday greetings and thank you to everyone who supported me in 2014 and to everyone who has offered to do so again for the 2016 election. I remain passionate about the issues that face our state and would welcome the opportunity to represent the people of House District 98 (Davidson, Cornelius, Huntersville, Highland Creek). But it's not that simple. There is so much more required to run for office, including the need to spend a year campaigning and fundraising and to be away from my family.

In addition, there is a new impediment this year. The state legislature has for the first time moved up the deadline for filing to run to December 21, 2015, a date that falls right before Christmas and before they have even begun the second legislative session of their two year term. Let me be clear. The change was a flagrant self-serving act to hide from their constituents by shutting out potential challengers. This is one more way in which the incumbents are using their power to keep their power, to the detriment of the voters. It's more bad government by our current elected officials and one of many reasons why Rep. Bradford should not be re-elected in 2016.

In the first year of his term, Rep. Bradford and his party further reduced taxes for the wealthiest while denying experienced public school teachers a raise, forced further cuts at state universities, removed local control over zoning and building guidelines, eliminated funding for healthcare at all Planned Parenthood clinics and supported the toll roads on I-77. When Bradford had a chance to vote on the toll road, he voted yes, and continued to argue in favor of tolls on I-77. Now that the contract is signed and construction has begun, he sends ineffective letters expressing opposition and attempts amendments that are out of order.

Bradford also has not acted to slow the rapid loss of NC teachers, to save green energy jobs, to address the several hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians who are uninsured, to stop the threat of fracking and the damage caused by coal ash spills, to reinstate the Earned Income Tax Credit or to end gerrymandering and the influence of money in politics.

The people of North Mecklenburg deserve to have a choice about who will represent them in Raleigh. After giving the decision much thought, I have decided that I am not able to meet the new early filing deadline and commit the time and energy required over the next year to raise the necessary funds and run an effective campaign. If you are someone who will stand up for all the people of the district, rather than the wealthy and powerful few, I encourage you to give serious thought to running. The district is winnable by a Democratic challenger. We need better representation in Raleigh.

Natasha Marcus

Davidson, NC